

# **New Jersey Fire Chiefs Judging Association**

## *Association Purpose*

The association provides qualified persons as judges of parades, shows and exhibits, organized by a duly constituted paid or volunteer firefighting or EMS organization. It also works to do anything necessary and proper for the accomplishment of purpose set forth in the statement of principles adopted by the founders of the association.

## *Identification of a Judge*

Your judge is a professional who has been assisting in and judging parades in the tri-state area since 1974. He is a person with at least five years active service in a fire company and/or emergency medical service, both career and volunteer. The average FIRE/EMS service time of your current judge is 21 years. He is knowledgeable in firematics and ambulance/rescue requirements, care and serviceability. Current judges average over 1200 hours of actual judging experience. All are fair and reasonable members.

New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Parade Judges are not paid for their services. They travel throughout the tri-state area at their own expense, including the cost of overnight lodging, if required.

Why do they do this? They do it out of their love for the FIRE/EMS service. They do it because they enjoy helping others become better FIRE/EMS members; they do it because they are professionals.

## *Judging Standards*

The New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Parade Judges Association has adopted NFPA Standards and NJAC 8:40 as the official guidelines for judging apparatus. Your judges utilize these standards in all parade judging matters.

NFPA standards specify the minimum equipment to be carried on all types of fire apparatus to ensure efficient and safe operation of that equipment. NJAC 8:40, adopted in New Jersey on 15 April 1985, specifies the equipment required for rescue units and/or ambulance squads.

*NFPA STANDARDS UTILIZED BY OUR ASSOCIATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:*

NFPA 1901 Pumper Fire Apparatus  
NFPA 1902 Initial Attack Fire Apparatus  
NFPA 1903 Mobil Water Supply fire Apparatus  
NFPA 1904 Aerial ladder & Elevating platform fire Apparatus

In addition to the above stated standards, the judges also check for cleanliness and safe condition/operation of the apparatus and equipment.

## *SUGGESTED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR A PARADE*

It is the responsibility of the host company to establish rules and regulations for their parade. Below are listed some rules that may be considered.

1. NO alcoholic beverages in the line of march or assembly area. Presence or evidence of alcohol will automatically disqualify the entire fire company and/or squad.
2. The sounding of sirens or air horns will be prohibited (permitted only in designated areas). The host company will make this determination.
3. The use of warning lights, bells, sirens, air horns, etc. prior to the start of the parade and/or after the completion of the parade is strictly prohibited, except in a true emergency.
4. The throwing of candy, etc. from apparatus in the line of march will not be permitted.
5. Discharging of water in the line of march WILL BE prohibited.
6. Any disorderly conduct in the line of march will disqualify the entire fire company/squad
7. No more than two firefighters riding in a vehicle will be counted in judging.
8. Judging may take place at any time along the parade route.
9. The decision of the judges is final.

## *Definitions*

The definitions listed below have been adopted by our Association to aid in the uniformity of judging.

### *IN-SERVICE*

1. Fire apparatus that complies with NFPA standards
2. Rescue/Ambulance equipment that complies with NJAC 8:40

### *TANKER*

Shall have a water carrying capacity of not less than 1500 gallons and may or may not have a pump.

### *AERIAL*

If there are no specific categories provided, an aerial truck shall be defined as a piece of equipment capable of raising a ladder, bucket, platform or squirt by other than manual means.

### *FARTHEST DISTANCE*

As the crow flies: the host company will always determine this.

### *AGE OF VEHICLE*

Date on the pump panel, state vehicle registration, or other documentation will be utilized. As for refurbished and/or restored apparatus, host company will make the determination as to the age of the piece.

## *Items Subject to Inspection*

1. Registration, driver's license for the operator & insurance card
  - Are they in order?
  - Are they up-to-date?
2. Warning & running lights
  - Clean?
  - Operational? If it is made to light up, does it work?
3. Front Bumper
  - Free of dirt? Rust? Loose Paint chips?
  - Front suction area. Paint chips?
  - Gaskets in place in the soft sleeve?
4. Cab
  - Windows dirty? Water spots?
  - Dust on dash? Sun visors?
  - Dirt behind or under seats, which includes under the passenger seat, where the radio is located.
  - Glove box clean or full of junk?
  - Floor mats? Dirty? How about underneath?
5. Wheel Wells and Under Carriage
  - Clean?
  - Free of rust?
6. Battery Boxes
  - Clean & free of corrosion, rust & dirt?
  - Batteries full?
  - Cables clean?
7. Engine
  - Clean?
  - Free of dust & rust?
  - Engine cover compartment clean?
8. Jump seats
  - Are the SCBA serviceable & clean?
  - Is area around the seats clean
  - Hand lights serviceable?

## *Items Subject to Inspection (continued)*

### 9. SCBA

- SCBA must be clean & serviceable
- Bottles in hydro? Full?
- Masks clean inside and out?
- Buckles clean and free of dirt?
- All straps fully extended and in good working order?
- Must meet ALL OSHA and NIOSH requirements

### 10. Hand lights

- Serviceable?
- Clean?
- Lens clean?
- No rust?

### 11. Tools

- Paint on ANY striking surface?
- Dirt or rust?
- Handles cracked or worn?
- Tool boxes neat and orderly?
- Nozzles free of dirt and rust?
- Threads free of dirt, rust and polish?

### 12. Booster Reels

- Hose free and clean? On the reel neatly?
- Area under the reels clean?
- Is the nozzle clean and in the OFF position?

### 13. Cross lays

- Hose clean and serviceable?
- Neatly packed?
- Nozzles in the OFF position?

### 14. Pump Panel

- All gauges reading ZERO (0)?
- Panel clean?
- All discharges and intakes clean?
- Caps HAND tight?
- ALL gaskets installed?

## *Items Subject to Inspection (continued)*

### 15. Hard Sleeve

Is the hard sleeve clean? In and Out?  
Does the female end spin freely?  
ALL gaskets in place

### 16. Compartments

Door latches and hinges free of dirt, paint and rust?  
Floor covering? Under floor covering clean and free of dirt?  
Inside upper lip clean?  
Door gaskets installed and in good shape?  
Fittings: Are all fittings clean and serviceable? Gaskets clean and in place?  
Loose equipment: Tools and loose equipment in compartments clean, neatly arranged and/or mounted?  
Generator: Clean, serviceable and all fluid levels correct?  
Cords and Reels: Neatly rolled? Guards in place? All ends THREE pronged? Do receptacles have covers and are the gaskets clean and in place  
Tools: Paint or rust on any striking surface? Placed neatly in compartments?  
First Aid Kit: 24-unit Fire department type per NFPA 1901? Kit fully stocked and properly labeled?  
Fuel Containers: Any fuel container should be the safety type and properly labeled.

### 17. Ground Ladders

Clean and serviceable  
Ropes frayed?  
Ropes should be tied with a clove hitch and safety know or clipped on the ladder

### 18. Bed Ladders

Clean and serviceable?  
No fraying of cables, no rust or excessive grease

### 19. Outriggers

This area should be clean and free of excessive grease  
Pads clean and free of rust?

## *Items Subject to Inspection (continued)*

### 20. Hose Load

Neatly packed?

Dirt in the hose or the hose bed?

### 21. Ropes

Ropes neatly wrapped, serviceable and not frayed?

Proper lengths in accordance with NFPA 1901 for Ladder Companies?

### 22. Fire Extinguishers

Properly inspected and tagged?

All gauges read properly?

Units in hydro?

### 23. General Appearance

Vehicle clean?

Free of wax build up?

Water spots?

Scratches? All should be touched up.

### 24. NFPA 1901

All apparatus must be the basic requirements of the NFPA 1901

### 25. Personnel

Courteous?

Knowledgeable?

## *Suggested Trophy Categories*

1. BEST APPEARING PUMPER  
BY CAPACITY, 500, 750, 1000, 1250, OR 1500 GPM  
BY AGE, 0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16 YEARS AND OVER
2. BEST APPEARING AERIAL  
BY TYPE, LADDER, ELEVATING PLATFORM, TELE-SQUIRT  
  
ALL TYPES TOGETHER
3. BEST APPEARING MINI PUMPER 0-500 GPM
4. BEST APPEARING MIDI PUMPER 500-750 GPM
5. BEST BRUSH TRUCK: Four wheel drive, or off road use
6. BEST APPEARING UTILITY: Light units, Cascade, Etc.
7. BEST APPEARING SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE: Chiefs cars, etc.
  
8. BEST APPEARING RESCUE APPARATUS  
Fire Department, Light, Medium, Heavy  
Rescue Squad, Light, Medium, Heavy
9. BEST APPEARING AMBULANCE  
Fire Department  
Rescue Squad
10. BEST APPEARING TANKER  
Straight  
Tractor Drawn
11. BEST APPEARING MOTORIZED ANTIQUE  
Fire Department Owned  
In – Service  
Parade Piece  
Privately owned
12. BEST APPEARING HORSE DRAWN  
Drawn by horses  
Transported by vehicle
13. BEST APPEARING HAND DRAWN APPARATUS  
Drawn by hand  
Transported by vehicle
14. BEST APPEARING COMIC UNIT

*Suggested Trophy Categories (continued)*

- 15. BEST APPEARING OVERALL FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 16. BEST MUSICAL UNIT
- 17. MOST MEMBERS IN LINE OF MARCH
- 18. COMPANY TRAVELING FARTHEST DISTANCE
- 19. JUDGES AWARD (3)

The above listed categories are a small sampling of the different types of awards that are available to you for your parade. Each category may have a first, second or third prize.

## *Host Company Check List*

1. Private place for the judges to meet before and after the parade.
2. Food: Coffee and donuts ready at the time the judges arrive in the morning. Lunch ready at the agreed time.
3. Mugs or t-shirts: Enough mugs or t-shirts set aside for the judges on parade day.
4. Pre-judging Area:
  - Enough judging lanes to handle the expected number of apparatus.
  - Enough traffic cones to mark these lanes
  - Signs directing apparatus to the proper lane.
  - Enough personnel to direct apparatus in and out of the judging area
  - Someone from the parade committee available to answer any questions or handle any problems that may occur.
  - Restroom facilities for judges and participants
  - Cold drinks available for the judges
  - Have place cards displayed in the windshield of each apparatus that will be judged
5. 30 days before the parade contact the Chief Judge with the following information:
  - A breakdown of apparatus expected to attend and the categories in which they will be competing.
  - Notification of any changes you may have made to your prize list. At this time the Chief Judge will inform you of how many judges to expect and how many lanes will be needed for pre-judging.
  - Assignment of time for each company to report for registration and pre-judging.

## *How Do I join the Parade Judges?*

### ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Contact the association, by calling Chief Joseph Littlely at 609-561-9575. Request an application. Applications are accepted year-round; however, they are only acted upon at the FALL meeting. Applicants are contacted by mail to attend officers' meeting in the fall, prior to the general meeting. If approved by the membership committee, they are requested to attend the regular fall meeting for full membership approval.

All persons considered for membership must demonstrate to the membership committee their expertise and familiarity with the fire fighting apparatus and/or emergency medical service apparatus and proper use and maintenance of the same. Prospective members must also prove membership in good standing of a duly constituted fire fighting organization or EMS organization for a period of not less than five (5) continuous years prior to making application to the parade judges association.