

	ROFR Section: 105 Personal Appearance		TFCA Best Practices: 12.12	
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PERSONAL APPEARANCE

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105.01 APPEARANCE POLICY: It is the fire department's intent to allow its uniformed members control over their personal appearance, limited only by necessary regulations designed to insure maximum safety and to reflect the semi-military appearance of its members. The department member's appearance shall be a reflection of all the members of the department, anybody decoration or item not issued by the city or covered by these Rules & Regulations shall first be approved by the fire chief and quarter master.

105.02 HAIR STYLING:

- A. Hair on top of the head shall not when combed, blown, or teased exceed 2" in height.
- B. Hair on the back of the head shall not extend beyond the bottom of the collar. (Ponytails are not acceptable.)
- C. Hair in front shall be groomed so that it does not fall below the eyebrows.
- D. Bush, Afro, bun or any other hair style may be worn within the above limitations, as long as it does not interfere with the seal of the SCBA face mask or the wearing of the helmet.
- E. Hair styles cut at different lengths as to form any symbol or design are not acceptable.
- F. Any unnatural hair colors such as blue, green, pink, bright red, etc. are not acceptable with the uniform. Any natural hair color such as brown, black, blonde, etc. is acceptable as hair coloring.
- G. Feathers, hair nets, ribbons or other hair adornment shall not be worn, any exceptions must be approved by the fire chief.
- H. Wigs or toupees shall be permitted if the style is consistent with the foregoing regulations. If a firefighter's natural hair style is not in compliance with these regulations, use of a wig shall be permitted, but the above hair regulations must be satisfied.

105.03 FACIAL HAIR:

- A. Facial hair (as used here shall indicate the hair on the face from the ear to the chin) shall not come in contact with the seal of the SCBA face mask.
- B. All facial hair shall be kept clean and neat.
- C. Members must be otherwise clean shaven when reporting for duty.
- D. No beards or goatee style beards allowed

105.04 SIDEBURNS:

Sideburns will be neatly trimmed and close to the face to avoid any possibility of a defective SCBA face piece seal. Sideburns shall not extend past the lower ear lobe.

105.05 PHYSICAL HYGIENE: All members, by frequent bathing, shall exercise good bodily hygiene and cleanliness when reporting for duty and after emergency calls.

105.06 WATCHES AND OR BRACELETS: Members may wear watches and or bracelets that are tight fitting and do not present a safety hazard.

105.07 RINGS: Members may wear up to three rings, but all rings must be able to be worn safely inside the department issued gloves.

105.08 EARRINGS, NOSERINGS, OR ANY EXPOSED PIERCED BODY JEWELRY: Earrings, nose rings, or any exposed pierced body jewelry are not acceptable with the uniform.

105.09 NECKLACES AND OR RELIGIOUS MEDALLIONS: Members may wear necklaces and or religious medallions as long as they are concealed under the shirt. Necklaces and or religious medallions that constantly fall out of the shirt are not acceptable.

105.10 TATTOOS/BODY ART:

A. Approved – Certain tattoos/body art are approved on the arm from the short sleeve shirt to the fingers or from the knee to the ankle. The fire chief will use the military criterion; the tattoo shall not be more than ¼ of the exposed area of the arm or leg as stated above. The area inside a tattoo or body art shall be considered part of the design and part of the ¼ rule. Any tattoo/body art that is obscene or advocates sexual, racial, ethnic, religious discrimination, or grotesque, offensive, gang related, degrading or causes undue attention as determined by the fire chief, shall not be allowed and must be covered or removed at the member's expense. Covered as used here shall mean covered by department issued clothing or if another form is used for cover it must be approved by the fire chief first. If the tattoo/body art is covered, members shall be considerate of other department members at all times. The fire chief will use the United States Military Dress Code as a reference.

B. Non-Approved – Any tattoo/body art anywhere on the head, face and/or neck above the Class "A" dress uniform collar are prohibited and must be removed at the member's expense.

Brands are considered a form of body art, but are not approved to be exposed with the uniform and must be covered. (See Part A)

105.11 FINGERNAILS: Members shall keep their fingernail clean and neatly trimmed. Fingernails shall not have designs or color on them unless approved by the fire chief.

105.12 COSMETICS: Members may wear cosmetics with the uniform under the following

conditions. Cosmetics must be applied conservatively, in good taste and compliment the skin tone. Officers must exercise good judgment in the enforcement of this rule.

105.13 LIPSTICK: Members shall not wear lipstick unless approved by the fire chief.

105.14 CELL PHONES: Members may wear personal cell phones with the uniform. However, members should turn them off or not use them on emergency calls, going to or during the call, unless used for official fire department business. All personal cell phones shall be turned off when training is being conducted. Any pictures taken with a cell phone camera on duty become property of the City of Red Oak.

105.15 QUESTIONS ON APPEARANCE: If members have questions about personal appearance that are not covered in the Rules & Regulations, they should consult with the fire chief before wearing or displaying any item or body decoration. The fire chief will use the United States Military Dress Code as a reference when making decisions on appearance.

