

Excerpts from Division 205 – Uniform & Grooming Standards

Purpose: The purpose of this section is to ensure that Fire Department employees are readily recognizable to the public, promote a professional image, and facilitate efficient and safe operations.

The Department believes that allowing its members to wear different styles or colors of uniform (or no uniform at all), to be groomed with significantly different lengths of hair or uniquely colored hair, or to display body art or piercings, would have a negative impact on the professional image and efficiency of the Department...

205.28 *Tattoos, Brands and Body Piercings:*

A. *Body piercings that are visible are prohibited*

Exception:

Female employees may wear a single pair of stud-style earrings. Non-safety female employees may wear more than one pair of earrings at the discretion of the Fire Chief.

B. *Tattoos and/or brands that are visible to the general public while wearing the standard long sleeved work uniform are prohibited...*

205.27 *The following hair standards covering hair, sideburns and mustaches are for maximum lengths to ensure the proper fit of helmet, hood and SCBA facepiece in addition to promoting a professional appearance.*

A. *Hair shall be clean and trimmed to present a well-formed appearance. Hair may extend over the collar, but not to exceed below the collar. Hair may extend over the ear, but shall not to exceed below the bottom of the ear. Hair at the back of the neck will be kept trimmed in an even and neat fashion...*

B. *Hair shall not be dyed or bleached to an unnatural color.*

C. *Sideburns shall be well groomed and neatly trimmed. Sideburns will be allowed to extend one inch below the bottom of the ear lobe and shall not exceed two inches width at the widest point.*

D. *Mustaches shall not interfere with the proper seal of the SCBA facemask. Mustaches shall not be seen from the rear. Mustaches shall not meet the sideburns at any point. Mustaches shall present a groomed appearance.*

E. *Beards and goatees shall not be permitted...*

F. *Female Safety Employees: While on duty or in uniform, a female employee's hairstyle shall be such that it does not permit hair to extend below the bottom of the collar. The hair may be combed over the ears, but shall not extend below the bottom of the ear. Hair bulk shall not exceed two inches at the rear of the crown of the head. Appearance standards and safety requirements require that hair styles shall not prevent or interfere with the wearing of approved headgear in the prescribed manner; i.e., bangs, if worn, shall be styled to permit the individual to don a breathing apparatus face piece and attain an airtight seal against the face, and shall not show when the uniform cap is worn. Accessories, hair clips, and pins that approximately match the color of the hair may be used.*

G. *If a female employee's hair normally extends below the bottom of the collar, she may wear it up in a manner that conforms to all of the above specifications...*