

# PHYSICAL EXAMINATION POLICY FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

---

**WHEREAS** the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Yaphank Fire District believes that it is in the best interests of the volunteer firefighters of the Yaphank Fire District, the District, its residents, and taxpayers, that the volunteer firefighters be physically capable of performing the duties assigned, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Chief's Office, consider the safety of the volunteer firefighters to be a serious matter and will not permit any firefighter to expose himself, herself or others to the dangers created by a firefighter performing duties of which he/she is not physically capable, **AND**

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Fire Commissioners has engaged Sound Medical and their staff to establish a physical examination for volunteer firefighters which meets the aforesaid requirements and has further designated Sound Medical to conduct medical examinations for new applicants and members returning to duty after medical leaves or such other medical entity as designated by the Board as the District Medical Authority.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the attached policy as currently revised shall be the physical examination policy for volunteer firefighters in this District.

This resolution was adopted on December 19, 2018, and will take effect on December 19, 2018.

Attest by:

Paulamarie Rosso-Thompson  
District Secretary

## YAPHANK FIRE DISTRICT

### PHYSICAL EXAMINATION POLICY FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND RESCUE PERSONNEL

1. Physical examinations of current and entry level volunteer firefighters along with rescue personnel shall be conducted by the Fire Districts Medical Authority.
2. The District Medical Authority shall design a system of periodic physical examinations to meet all OSHA requirements as enforced by the Department of Labor of the State of New York for volunteer firefighters in the State of New York. No new requirements for approved physicals are to be instituted without prior action by the Board of Fire Commissioners.
3. The Fire District Medical Authority is Sound Medical.

**The periodic medical examinations shall be conducted on an annual basis regardless of the age or class of the firefighter.**

4. The Chief's will work with the Board to determine the dates of the annual physicals which will take place in the month of April. Volunteer firefighters will be given a minimum of one months' notice of the physical dates. Volunteer firefighters who are unable to complete the annual physical on the dates scheduled by the Chief and the Board, will be given thirty (30) days to make their own appointment with the districts medical authority to have their physical completed. If any volunteer firefighter fails to complete their annual physical within the thirty (30) day period, on the 31<sup>st</sup> day they will be suspended until the physical has been completed and documentation from the medical authority has been received by the district office.
5. The classification of active volunteer firefighters and rescue personnel by duties assigned shall be as follows with volunteer firefighters assigned to each category in accordance with the report of their physical examination result by the District Medical Authority.
  - a. **Class A Firefighter:**  
Capable of performing all duties of volunteer firefighters including the use of self-contained breathing apparatus and interior structural firefighting. **Length of Service Award Program eligible.**
  - b. **Class B Firefighter:**  
Capable of performing all duties of a Class A Firefighter with the exception of duties involving the use of self-contained breathing apparatus and the interior structural firefighting and which shall include but not be limited to Chauffeur. **Length of Service Award Program eligible.**
  - c. **Class C Firefighter:**  
Capable of performing all duties of Fire Police including closing roadways, directing traffic, operating Fire Police and ambulance vehicles. **Length of Service Award Program eligible.**

**d. Class D Rescue Personnel:**

Capable of performing EMS duties only, no firefighting. **Length of Service Award Program eligible.**

**Active Life Member:**

A member who has completed and passed their annual Class A, B, C or D physical, satisfied their New York State mandated courses, and maintained their percentages. **Length of Service Award Program eligible.**

An active life member is capable of performing all duties identified under their physical classification. Additionally, the member is entitled to attend meetings, vote in Department elections, drills, social events, parades, and is Service Award Program eligible.

**Social Life Member: Active**

A member who is unable to pass their annual Class A, B, C or D physical and as a result their classification will become a **Social Life Member Active**. This member will be required to complete the three New York State mandated courses (Sexual Harassment, The Respectful Workplace (Employee) and Workplace Violence). This member is entitled to attend social events including annual installation dinner, annual picnic, parades, and firematic services, as well as be entitled to be involved in department committees and vote at the department elections if they have attended four or more department meetings. Years of service for this classification will continue to accrue. **Length of Service Award Program Ineligible.**

**Social Life Member: Inactive**

A member who has not completed their annual physical, and/or has not satisfied the New York State mandated courses.

This member is entitled to complete an annual physical if they choose to, however it is not required. In order to attend social events including the annual installation dinner, annual picnic, parades, and firematic services this classification **MUST** complete the three New York State mandated courses (Sexual Harassment, The Respectful Workplace (Employee) and Workplace Violence). This requirement is not an option. In addition, this member's years of service will **NOT** continue to accrue. **Length of Service Award Program ineligible.**

If a member or life member leaves the Yaphank Fire Department and joins another department their years of service clock stops as of the resignation date.

6. Volunteer firefighters shall be classified upon receipt of the report of their physical examination prepared by the Medical Authority. Thereafter the Board will inform the Chief's Office of the classification of the firefighter. The Chief's Office will be responsible to inform the firefighter of his or her classification, direct him or her to only perform permissible duties under this policy, and make certain to only assign a firefighter to duties which he or she is physically capable of performing.
7. The report submitted to the Board of the physical examination of a firefighter by the Medical Authority shall include only the classification recommended by the Medical Authority. It shall not include any information relative to the physical condition of the firefighter patient, which

information shall remain confidential unless revealed by the firefighter. The Chief's Office must be notified by the District Office, in writing, within 48 hours of receipt of the results of the physical.

8. A volunteer firefighter may seek review of the determination made by the Medical Authority and this Board in assigning him or her to a classification by submitting a request for same in writing. Thereafter, the Board will review any information the firefighter wishes to submit and render a final determination. During any period of review the firefighter must conform his or her conduct and restrict the duties performed in conformance with the determination to be reviewed.
9. Any volunteer firefighter/rescue person failing to submit to a scheduled periodic physical examination and/or drug testing as ordered by this Board and the Chief's Office or failing to conform his/her conduct to duties assigned as a result of a physical examination related classification shall be suspended by this Board pending the scheduling of a hearing and shall be subject to disciplinary action including possible removal from membership in the Fire Department. The Board of Fire Commissioners/District Office will send a letter of suspension formally notifying the member of failure to complete their physical requirements.
10. Any firefighter/rescue person who has been authorized to be absent from duty by a doctor's note for a medical condition that affects his/her performance as a firefighter/rescue person shall not return to duty before being evaluated by their physician or specialist and obtaining a return to duty note. This note must be submitted to the Districts Medical Authority, who will then provide the district with a return to duty clearance letter. In all cases, a report from the physician and/or specialist stating that the member is able to return to full active duty is required. The District Medical Authority will determine if a physical is required to be cleared for active duty.
11. Any department member that has an injury or illness that was in the line of duty must get medical clearance from the District Medical Authority BEFORE returning to full duty regardless of whether the injury or illness is major or minor in nature.
  1. A line of duty injury or illness is considered to have happened in the performance of Fire Department duties and requires medical attention as a result of that injury/illness. Any line of duty injury/illness must be reported to the Chief and the Fire District immediately.
12. All entry level firefighters must pass the physical for Class A Firefighter and must pass a drug test.
13. Any volunteer firefighter failing to submit to scheduled annual physical examinations and/or drug testing as ordered by this Board and the Chief's Office or failing to conform his/her conduct to duties assigned as a result of a physical examination related classification shall be suspended by this Board pending the scheduling of a hearing pursuant to Section 209-L of the General Municipal Law, and shall be subject to disciplinary action including possible removal from membership in the Fire Department. The Board of Fire Commissioners/District Office will send a letter of suspension formally notifying the member of failure to complete their physical requirements.

Chairman Skidmore	AYE
Commissioner Peters	AYE
Commissioner Austin	AYE
Commissioner Schaaf	NOT PRESENT
Commissioner Thebold	NOT PRESENT

Adopted by the Board of Fire Commissioners on December 19, 2018.

Revised and adopted on 11-15-23.

Re-adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of January 2024 by the Board of Fire Commissioners

Attest by:

Paulamarie Rosso-Thompson  
District Secretary