

## **UNIFORM INSIGNIA GUIDELINES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE**

The following recommendations are presented by the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission for *Uniform Insignia Guidelines for the Fire Service*. The practices of many fire departments were researched and these guidelines were developed as a result. They are set forth here in summary style.

All insignia for Chief Officers shall be done in gold (badge, striping, buttons, nameplates, etc.) While Company Officers (Captains and Lieutenants) shall be rendered in silver.

**Collars and Lapels:** The Chief of Department and Staff Chiefs of high rank (Assistant Chiefs/Deputy Chiefs) shall have collars/lapels of good quality black velvet.

**Cuffs:** Since the stripes indicating the individual's rank are on the sleeves, no buttons shall be used on the cuffs of a fire officer's uniform.

### **Braids:**

**Chief of the Fire Department:** Shall have five one-half inch wide metallic gold lace braids sewn one-quarter inch apart with the first stripe sewn 2.5 inches from bottom of sleeve with a one inch metallic gold Maltese Cross sewn one-quarter inch above the top stripe.

**Assistant Chief:** Exactly the same as the Chief except with four gold stripes.

**Deputy Chief:** Exactly the same as the Chief except with three gold stripes.

**Battalion Chief:** Exactly the same as the Chief except with two gold stripes.

**Captains:** Exactly the same as the Chief except with two silver stripes.

**Lieutenants:** Exactly the same as the Chief except with one silver stripe.

**Buttons:** As indicated above, Chief Officers shall have gold buttons while company officers shall have silver buttons. All Officers shall have a double-breasted coat with two rows of five buttons.

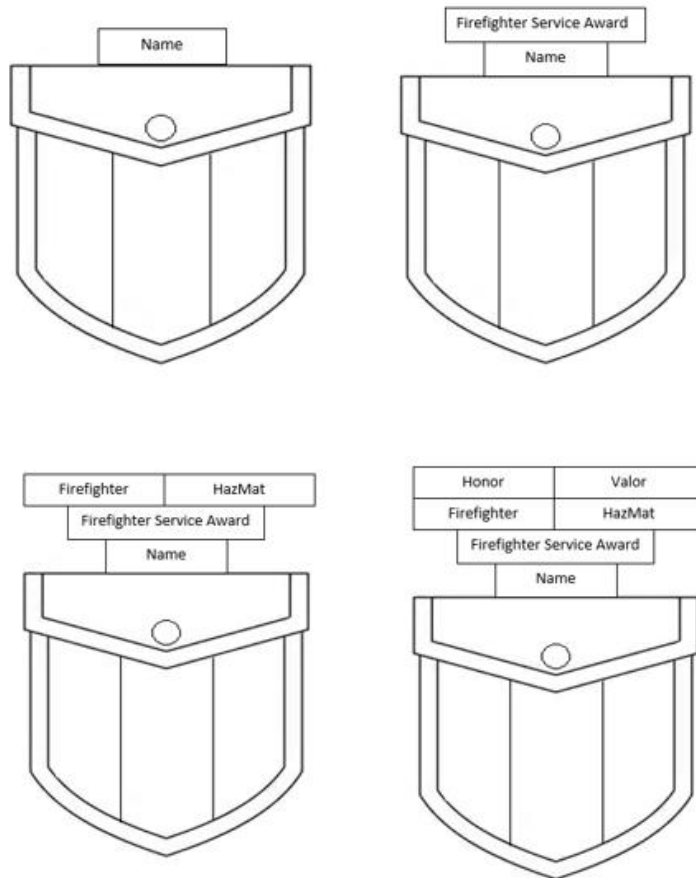
**Badge Clip:** A badge clip shall be sewn on the left breast of the uniform jacket, appropriately located above the top button on the left side.

**Shoulder Patch:** An official fire department shoulder patch shall be sewn on the left sleeve of the coat; the top of the patch shall be no more than one inch below the shoulder seam.

**Nametag:** To be worn centered on right pocket. Flush with top pocket seam. In absence of pocket, level with bottom of badge.

**Firefighter Service Award:** To be worn centered on right pocket above nametag.

**Department or Military Approved Awards:** May be worn on the right side as outlined below. Military protocol regarding display of decorations on civilian uniforms will take precedence.



**Trumpets:**

Chief of the Fire Department:	Five crossed
Assistant Chief:	Four crossed
Deputy Chief:	Three crossed
Battalion Chief:	Two crossed
Captain	Two parallel
Lieutenant:	One

**Quick Reference Guide:**

Chief Officers wear gold while company officers wear silver.

Five trumpets has five stripes, four trumpets has four stripes, three has three, etc.

All fire officers' uniform coats are double-breasted with two rows of five buttons.