



INTERNAL
BRAVERY & SERVICE
AWARDS



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FOREWORD



THE COMMISSIONER OF THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, HAS ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING NSW RFS INTERNAL BRAVERY AND SERVICE AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF VALOUR, ACTS OF BRAVERY, DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AND LONG SERVICE:-

- COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR VALOUR
- COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY
- COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE
- NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL
- COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION FOR BRAVERY
- COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION FOR SERVICE
- COMMISSIONER'S CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION

ALL MEMBERS OF THE NSW RFS ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE ABOVE AWARDS. THIS BOOKLET HAS BEEN SPECIFICALLY WRITTEN TO ASSIST MEMBERS BY PROVIDING THE GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS.

SINCE THE CREATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICE MEDAL IN 1988, THE CREATION OF AN AWARDS STRUCTURE WAS A NATURAL PROGRESSION, RECOGNISING THE WORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMBERS WITHIN THE NSW RFS IN FRONT OF THEIR PEERS.

THE NSW RFS IS COMMITTED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE VALOUR, BRAVERY, DISTINGUISHED AND LONG SERVICE AND DEDICATION AS EXEMPLIFIED BY ITS MEMBERS. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AWARDS STRUCTURE CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE RECOGNITION, RESPECT AND PRAISE ARE SOUGHT AND ENCOURAGED, CONTRIBUTING TO A CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE.

ROB ROGERS, AFSM
NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE COMMISSIONER

ORIGINS OF THE SYSTEM OF AWARDS



ountries all over the world have a wide range of awards to recognise the civil service or military achievements of their citizens. These awards comprise distinctive and colourful insignia and ribbons, which are worn as outward symbols of such recognition.

Some researchers believe early references to awards date back to 1400 BC in ancient Egypt where a gold medal of honour was presented in recognition of valour. More commonly called decorations, rewards for gallantry or bravery in conditions of extreme danger are a relatively modern innovation and were generally only introduced on a wide scale towards the end of the 19th century.

COMPONENTS OF INSIGNIA

The insignia of an awards system consist of a number of specific elements such as badges, stars, ribbons and miniatures. A medal is essentially different from a decoration, a clasp different from a bar and a ribbon different from a ribbon bar.

THE DECORATION OR MEDAL

A decoration often takes the form of a cross or star, while a medal is usually circular or oval in shape. The front face of a medal is usually the more decorative side.

THE SUSPENDER BAR

The suspender bar is the device that links the decoration or medal to the ribbon.

RIBBON

A decoration or medal is suspended from a ribbon, which is often symbolic of the award.

BARS AND CLASPS

As a decoration associated with an act of valour, bravery or service the award is issued once, bars and impellers are issued to indicate that an individual has won the award for a second or subsequent time, with the number of bars (decoration) and impellers (ribbon) indicating the number of additional awards. Similarly, clasps and impellers are issued for long service medals indicating the prescribed period of long service for the recipient with associated clasps (medal) and impellers (ribbon).

MINIATURE DECORATIONS OR MEDALS

Each decoration or medal has its own miniature which is usually a half-sized replica of the original award and is generally worn at official occasions, often in evening or mess dress when uniforms are not worn.

RIBBON BAR

A ribbon bar is a strip of ribbon of the relevant award attached to a metal bar and worn on the right breast when in uniform, and on occasions when full-sized awards are not displayed.

LAPEL PIN

Lapel pins are designed to represent the individual award for Valour (antique gold), Bravery (pewter) and Service (bronze) and are worn when no other pieces of insignia (medals or bars) are worn. They can be worn at all other occasions (including day wear) other than those requiring the wearing of medals, miniatures or bars.

HISTORICAL NOTATIONS



THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE CREST

The original artwork for the NSW RFS crest was reputed to have been designed by a volunteer from Heathcote Brigade, Ray Watchorn, QFSM. Mr Watchorn was a foundation member of Heathcote Brigade and was a Fire Control Officer in the NSW RFS for many years. The crest consists of a single burning bush framed by concentric circles and surrounded by a green wreath of laurel leaves. The name of the Service is engraved within the concentric circles. The crest is surmounted by the Crown of St Edward. The crest underwent a number of changes. Originally designed in the 1960s, the wreath was added in the early 1980s. The final change occurred when the organisation's name was altered to the NSW Rural Fire Service in 1997.

THE CROWN OF ST EDWARD

The crown of St Edward is the coronation crown of the kings and queens of England and constitutes a gold and jewel-encrusted base surmounted by a cross. The crown's title was first used in the 13th century and is used for the coronation of all English sovereigns.





THE BURNING BUSH

In both Indigenous Australian and European traditions, fire has been seen both as a symbol of destruction and of regeneration. The burning bush in the crest symbolises the continuous presence of fire on the Australian landscape. The containment of the fire on a single bush represents the control and management of fire to regenerate and protect the people and the landscape of the Australian continent.

THE WREATH OF GREEN LEAVES

In the mythology of Greece, Apollo the god of sun and lord of time and ripeness, named the laurel his favourite tree and recommended that it be used to symbolise victory.

The green leaves on the crest symbolise new growth and the cycle of regeneration resulting from the mastery and management of fire.

COMMISSIONER'S AWARD FOR VALOUR



warded to recognise an act of conspicuous courage involving exceptional bravery under circumstances of great peril where there has been a clear and significant risk to life.

The award was instituted on 1 February 1999. A warrant accompanies the award and for each award and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the action is presented to the recipient.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The Award for Valour is of standard size and made of copper in a colour of Antique Gold. The front side of the award consists of an eight pointed cross emanating from the crest of the NSW RFS. The reverse side of the award should have the recipient's name and the date of action inscribed thereon. The award is 45 mm wide and 45 mm high.

SUSPENSION

The top suspension is from a gold bar with the word 'VALOUR' superimposed on the bar. The bar is linked to the award by a gold ring.

RIBBON

The insignia ribbon is based on simple colours that represent the Service core of red flame and white smoke. The ribbon is water marked and consists of a central red strip on a white background. From the top suspension to the bottom, the Award for Valour is 95 mm high and the ribbon is 32 mm wide.





RIBBON BAR

The ribbon bar consists of a strip of 32 mm wide ribbon with no emblem and is worn whenever ribbon bars or orders, decorations and medals are worn.

FURTHER AWARDS

If a further Award for Valour is made, a bar is affixed to the ribbon of full-sized and miniature awards and an impeller to the ribbon bar. For each subsequent award a further bar and impeller is awarded and worn in this manner.

MINIATURE

The miniature of the Award for Valour is a half-sized replica of the award suspended from a miniature ribbon which is 25 mm wide and 27 mm long.

LAPEL PIN

The lapel pin of the Award for Valour has been designed to reflect the colour (antique gold) and style of the main medal in the insignia and is made out of the same material measuring 14mm wide and 14mm high. The lapel pin can be worn on any civilian clothes at any time but not in the case where other pieces of insignia are worn. Award recipients are encouraged to wear their lapel pins regularly. If more than one award is being held, the lapel pin of the most senior award should be worn. No more than one lapel pin should be worn at any one time. (The lapel pin was instituted on 4 May 2012 and will not be issued retrospectively).

PRECEDENCE

The Commissioner's Award for Valour is the highest individual award in the NSW RFS. A full table of precedence for the Awards can be found at the back of this booklet.



COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY



warded to recognise an act of courage under hazardous circumstances where the risk to life has not been as significant as to warrant the Commissioner's Award for Valour but is worthy of recognition.

For each award of the Commendation and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the action is presented to the recipient.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The Commendation for Bravery is a pewter shield and crest of the NSW RFS. The crest is 27 mm wide and 27 mm high and is affixed to a red and white ribbon.

RIBBON

The ribbon is red and edges in white with a central white strip. The ribbon is 32 mm wide and 90 mm long.

RIBBON BARS

The ribbon bars consists of a 32 mm wide ribbon with no emblem and is worn whenever ribbon bars or orders, decorations and medals are worn.

FURTHER AWARDS

If a further award of the Commendation for Bravery is made, a bar is affixed to the ribbon of full-sized and miniature award above the crest and an impeller to the ribbon bar. For each subsequent award a further bar and impeller is awarded and worn in this manner.





MINIATURE

The miniature of the Commendation is a half-sized replica of the original 16 mm wide and 45mm high.

LAPEL PIN

The lapel pin of the Commendation for Bravery has been designed to reflect the colour (pewter) and style of the crest on the main ribbon. It is made out of the same material, round in shape and measures 14mm in diameter. The lapel pin can be worn on any civilian clothes at any time but not in the case where other pieces of insignia are worn. Award recipients are encouraged to wear their lapel pins regularly. If more than one award is being held, the lapel pin of the most senior award should be worn. No more than one lapel pin should be worn at any one time. (The lapel pin was instituted on 4 May 2012 and will not be issued retrospectively).

PRECEDENCE

The Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery is ranked immediately after the Commissioner's Award for Valour. A full table of precedence for the Awards can be found at the back of this booklet.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE



warded to recognise service of a meritorious nature, or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task, not involving bravery. For each award of the Commendation and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the service details is presented to the recipient.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The Commendation for Service is a bronze shield and crest of the NSW RFS. The crest is 27mm wide and 27 mm high and is affixed to a red and white ribbon.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 32 mm wide and 90 mm long, red in colour and edges in white.

RIBBON BAR

The ribbon bar consists of a 32 mm wide ribbon with no emblem and is worn whenever ribbon bars or orders, decorations and medals are worn.

FURTHER AWARDS

If a further award of the Commendation for Service is made, a bar is affixed to the ribbon of full-sized and miniature award above the crest and an impeller to the ribbon bar. For each subsequent award a further bar and impeller is awarded and worn in this manner.



MINIATURE

The miniature of the Commendation is a half-sized replica of the original 16 mm wide and 45 mm high.

LAPEL PIN

The lapel pin of the Commendation for Service has been designed to reflect the colour (bronze) and style of the crest on the main ribbon. It is made out of the same material, round in shape and measures 14mm in diameter. The lapel pin can be worn on any civilian clothes at any time but not in the case where other pieces of insignia are worn. Award recipients are encouraged to wear their lapel pins regularly. If more than one award is being held, the lapel pin of the most senior award should be worn. No more than one lapel pin should be worn at any one time. (The lapel pin was instituted on 4 May 2012 and will not be issued retrospectively).

PRECEDENCE

The Commissioner's Commendation for Service is ranked immediately after the Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery. A full table of precedence for Awards can be found at the back of this booklet.



THE NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL



warded for 10 years of Long Service with impellers and clasps awarded for each subsequent 10 year period of service.

The Long Service Medal was instituted on 4 May 2009 and replaced the former Long Service Badges.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The Long Service Medal is of standard size and made of copper in a colour of Oxy-Silver with impeller rosettes and clasps. The front side of the medal consists principally of the engraved crest of the NSW RFS. The reverse side of the medal consists of the engraved emblem of New South Wales and includes the engraved statement “For Long Service”. The reverse side also has the recipient’s name inscribed thereon. The medal contains the Queen’s Crown at its apex and the Crown is linked to the medal suspender bar.

RIBBON

The ribbon is 30 mm wide and 50 mm high. It is watermarked and consists of five vertical stripes in Red, Green and Blue, the colours taken from the crest of the NSW RFS.

RIBBON BARS

The ribbon bar consists of a 32 mm wide ribbon with no emblem and is worn whenever ribbon bars or orders, decorations and medals are worn.

FURTHER AWARDS

When a further award is made an Oxy-Silver impeller is affixed to the ribbon of the ribbon bar and an Oxy-Silver clasp is affixed to the ribbon of the Long Service Medal and the miniature medal. For 50 years of service or more, the impellers and clasps are Gold in colour.

MINIATURE

The miniature of the Long Service Medal is a half-sized replica of the medal suspended from a miniature ribbon of 16 mm wide and 45 mm long.

PRECEDENCE

The Long Service Medal is ranked immediately after the Commissioner’s Commendation for Service. A full table of precedence for the Awards can be found at the back of this booklet.



COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION FOR BRAVERY



warded to crews, brigades, groups, or organised units, where outstanding service involving group bravery warrants recognition.

For each award of the Citation and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the action is presented to the unit concerned. The warrant lists all those persons present at the incident or event and entitled to the Citation. Only those members listed on the original warrant are entitled to wear the Unit Citation for Bravery. If a member listed on the original warrant transfers to another Brigade, they are entitled to continue to wear the Citation.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The insignia of the Unit Citation for Bravery is a gilt rectangular framed ribbon bar measuring 36 mm wide and 12 mm high.

RIBBON

The ribbon is red and edged in white with a central white stripe. The ribbon is identical to the Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery.

FURTHER AWARDS

If a further award of the Citation is made an impeller is affixed to the ribbon. For each subsequent award, a further impeller is awarded and worn in this manner.



COMMISSIONER'S UNIT CITATION FOR SERVICE



warded to crews, brigades, groups, or organised units to recognise outstanding service of a meritorious nature, such as group action in relation to fire service duties, group work performance, or other outstanding or meritorious service not involving bravery.

For each award of the Citation and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the action is presented to the unit concerned. The warrant lists all those persons present at the incident or event and entitled to the Citation. Only those members listed on the original warrant are entitled to wear the Unit Citation for Service. If a member listed on the original warrant transfers to another Brigade, they are entitled to continue to wear the Citation.

INSIGNIA DESIGN

The insignia of the Unit Citation for Service is a gilt rectangular framed ribbon bar measuring 36 mm wide and 12 mm high.

RIBBON

The ribbon is red and edged in white. The ribbon is identical to the Commissioner's Commendation for Service.

FURTHER AWARDS

If a further award of the Citation is made an impeller is affixed to the ribbon. For each subsequent award, a further impeller is awarded and worn in this manner.



COMMISSIONER'S CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION (INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT)



warded to recognise service or outstanding actions in relation to fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific project or task.

The Certificate of Commendation may be awarded to an individual or unit for service beyond the scope of responsibility normally expected of that person or unit in their assigned duties and is therefore worthy of acknowledgement and commendation.

For each award of the Commendation and each subsequent award, a warrant citing the service details is presented to the recipient.



WEARING NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE AWARDS



The Medal, Commendation or Unit Citation is worn on the right breast whenever full-sized orders, decorations and medals are worn.

Full-sized insignia are only displayed on formal occasions when full Service dress is worn such as official or ceremonial parades, formal day-time receptions and when commanded by the Commissioner or advised by the Service's Protocol Officer.

Miniature insignia are displayed on formal mess or evening dress. A ribbon bar may be worn on the right breast for all other occasions.

On day-to-day uniform, ribbons are either sewn directly onto the uniform in the Order of Precedence or onto ribbon bars that are then pinned onto the uniform.

Medals and Commendations are worn on the right breast in accordance with the Order of Precedence, worn right to left, centrally 5 mm above the right breast pocket of Service shirts, tunics and coats. Nameplates are then worn 5 mm above the Award.

Unit Citations are worn centrally, 5 mm above the nameplate on the right breast pocket of Service shirts, tunics and coats.

Lapel pins should be worn on civilian clothing when no other pieces of insignia are worn. If more than one award is being held, the lapel pin of the most senior award should be displayed.

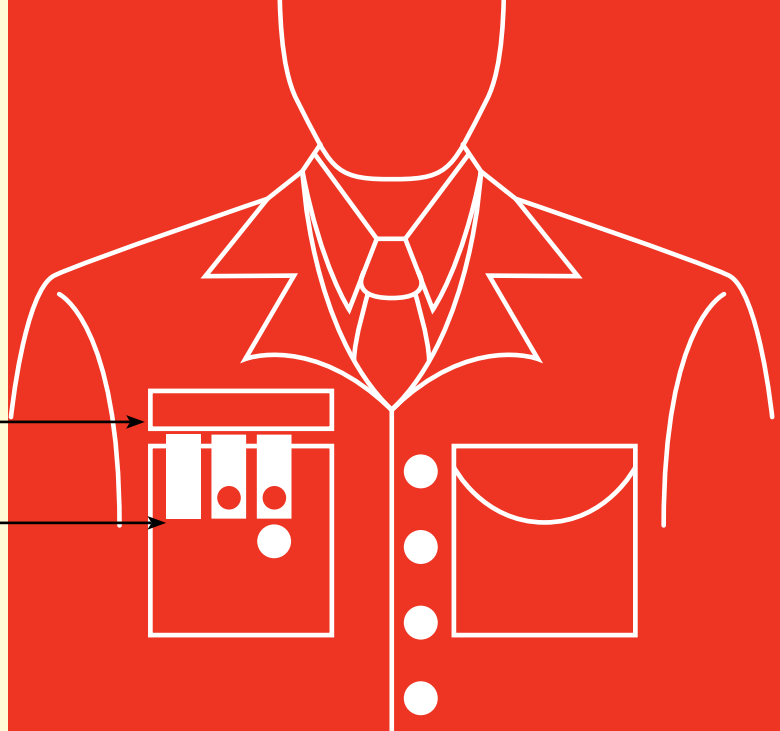
Full details of the wearing of NSW RFS Internal Awards can be found in Service Standard 9.1.1 Internal Service Awards.

FULL SIZED MEDALS
OFFICIAL FUNCTION UNIFORM

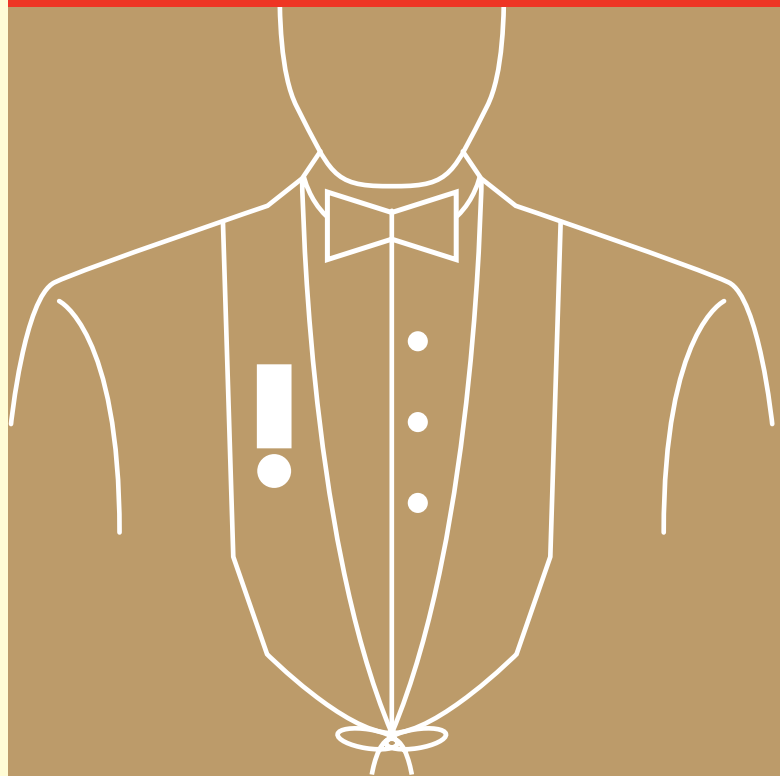
NAME PLATE (WHERE OPTIONAL) →

AWARD FOR VALOUR →

TWO COMMENDATIONS
(WORN LEFT TO RIGHT IN ORDER
OF PRECEDENCE - 1 MM ABOVE TOP OF
POCKET)



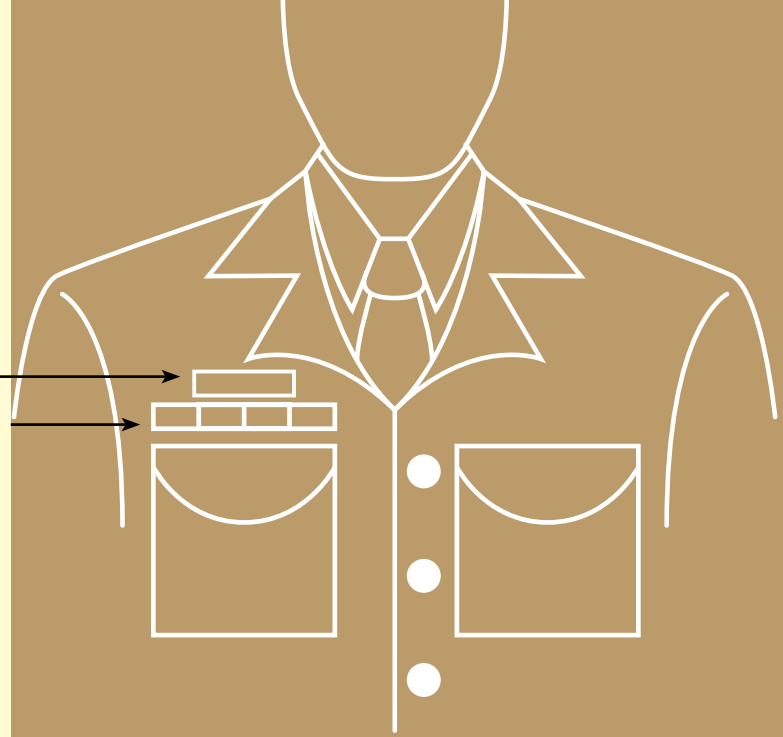
MINIATURE MEDALS
EVENING WEAR



RIBBON BAR
EVERYDAY WEAR

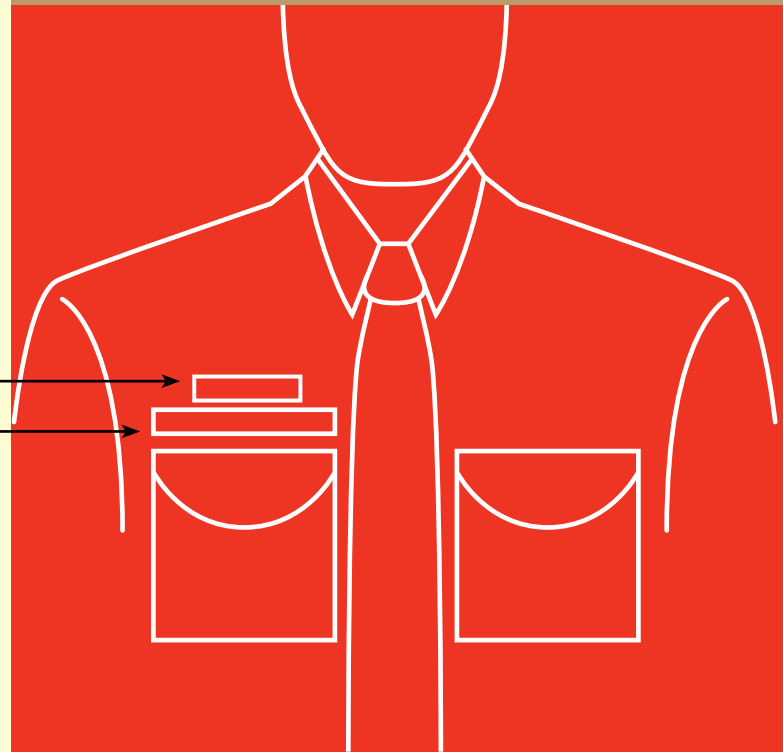
NAME PLATE 5 MM ABOVE RIBBON BAR
(BOTTOM EDGE OF BAR 1 MM ABOVE POCKET)

RIBBON BAR
(WORN LEFT TO RIGHT IN ORDER OF
PRECEDENCE)



UNIT CITATION
EVERYDAY WEAR
WORN ON A SERVICE SHIRT

UNIT CITATION (5 MM ABOVE NAME PLATE)
NAME PLATE (5 MM ABOVE POCKET)



ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF AWARDS



The Order of Precedence is the official Government or Service direction establishing the sequence in which orders, decorations and medals must be worn.

Unit Citations are also listed below in a NSW RFS Order of Precedence and are ranked in the families of either individual or group recognition.

National Honours and Awards including Military Medals are worn on the left side of the uniform of the wearer with the most senior award closest to the wearer's centre chest. The NSW RFS Internal Bravery and Service Awards are worn on the right side of the uniform of the wearer with the most senior award closest to the wearer's right shoulder. The Order of Precedence of the Service Awards mirrors the National Awards.

In the case of multiple Service Awards, Medals and Commendations, these are worn on the right side of the uniform with the Award for Valour being worn closest to the wearer's right shoulder and other awards towards the wearer's centre chest in their Order of Precedence.

The NSW Government has also established an Order in Precedence for the Internal Awards and Long Service Medals of all agencies and emergency services. See Service Standard 9.1.1 - Internal Service Awards.

THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

AWARD FOR VALOUR

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENDATION FOR SERVICE

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE LONG SERVICE MEDAL

UNIT CITATION FOR BRAVERY

UNIT CITATION FOR SERVICE

