

## **SHUT UP and TRAIN more!!!!!!**

49 tips that every probie (and all of us) should know!

1. Check all of your equipment. If you might use it, check it. When the tones go off, it's too late. Do it now.
2. When reporting for duty, look around and find what needs to be done. Stay away from the TV and get on the apparatus floor.
3. Every time you come on duty, check your pockets for your gloves, light, rope, screwdriver, cutters and more. Why carry all that? Figure it out.
4. Always help prepare the meal and make coffee.
5. When you clean the toilets, leave the clean soapy water in the bowl so the other firefighters know the toilet has been cleaned
6. Volunteer to do whatever needs to be done. WHATEVER
7. After eating, (you eat last), be the first to the sink to scrub the pots, pans and dishes...perfectly.
8. Be proud that you are going to learn to help people that are having the worst day of their lives. Very few people get to do what we do.
9. Learn your firehouse or department policies and positive traditions-know them by heart and follow them!
10. Always say- "Sir", "Ma'am", "Chief", or "Lou" to chief's officers and instructors. They have earned it.
11. When arriving at a fire, always get off the rig with your SCBA and apparatus tools. Some don't do that and have to backtrack. Avoid being like that.
12. When on the run, listen for your officers instructions and FOLLOW THEM.
13. Always stay with your company. If you freelance or wander, it can kill you or other fighters.
14. At fires, STAY LOW. Heat and smoke rise. Listen for interior sounds.
15. Study and learn fire behaviour, and get as much hands on training as possible, no matter who's paying for it.
16. Keep your mouth shut and your eyes and ears open ...ALWAYS!
17. LISTEN!!!!
18. Never give up. Everyone screws up.
19. Ask questions when you don't understand. If you have any doubt, ask.
20. LEARN, STUDY, DRILL AND TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN, TRAIN, It never ends.
21. Respect those who have done this job before and in this position –that is everyone.
22. Let your skills and actions speak for you, you will be judged by your actions, ability and enthusiasm.
23. Don't be a 6-22: someone who has 6 months on the job but acts like they have 22 years experience. Be respectful, humble and learn.
24. Take care of yourself. You are priority No. 1. Be safe. Never fail to wear your seatbelt. This is a risky job, but we don't have to stupidly increase that risk.
25. Earn your seat on the apparatus and enjoy your role on the fire ground. EARN IT!
26. Act as if your fire chief is sitting on one of your shoulders and your mother is on the other.
27. Ask your boss about your progress in private. But don't ask in a suck-up way. Be professional.



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28. Stay off of those stupid, faceless, “mutt”-populated fire Internet chat rooms, your cell phone and instant messagers. Focus on your job. Leave your electronics toys in the car. You don't have time for them.
29. ALWAYS arrive early and ask –or just do what needs to be done.
30. Memorize your apparatus duties and what's in each compartment on any rig you'll be riding.
31. When you're taught about a particular tool, become an expert in that tool.
32. Have an opinion? Most times we won't ask for it. This isn't ALWAYS a democracy. Follow the policies—those who wrote them were here before you and unlike you, are time tested.
33. Remember: The department is loaning you the temporarily title of “probationary firefighter.” At the end of the specified timeframe, will you have earned the title.
34. Be the first to do the dishes, take out the garbage and mop the floor.
35. Don't tell jokes or stories until you are accepted....and that's a few years away.
36. Don't gossip. Don't say anything negative.
37. Watch your temper. Chop busting is part of firehouse life.
38. Help others with their assignments when you finish yours; that includes cleaning and training
39. Volunteers for assignments, stand-bys, special details, conferences, fundraising, team and special training.
40. Never turn your back on a rig that's backing up. EVER.
41. Don't trust the public on the roadways. They don't see you. Watch the traffic.
42. Watch what you eat. Stay fit. Work out EVERY day.
43. Respect EMS and be very good at it. It's a part of firefighter these days and it matters. Treat every patient like your mom. Really.
44. Getting water on the fire can do more to save lives that almost anything else. Learn the role of an engine firefighter....like an expert.
45. Study building construction. The building is your enemy and you must know the enemy. Frank Brannigan said that. Who is he? Figure it out.
46. Learn to calm down. No matter how bad it is—and you are going to see some really bad things—relax.
47. At a fire, have NO exposed skin, use all your protective gear and don't breathe smoke. Use your SCBA and DO NOT BREATHE THAT CRAP.
48. When you earn the privilege to drive, don't drive like a lunatic. They LET YOU drive the apparatus, it isn't your apparatus.
49. Smile and remember how great this job is!