



SALUTING

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS

SECTION 9

SALUTING

INTRODUCTION

The salute is a traditional demonstration of respect and trust. While the salute is not used in the fire service in the normal conduct of business, it is expected and required for formal or ceremonial occasions. Often fire service personnel are uncomfortable in this role, especially if they have had no previous military training or have never been instructed on when or how to salute. All departments should consider incorporating basic marching, drill and saluting to their recruit and ongoing training programs.

The method of saluting has varied greatly over the years, and even firefighters with military service will discover differences exist from unit to unit, service to service.

The objective of this section is not to introduce a military regimen to the fire service. It is rather to provide a standard salute based on that used by the Canadian Armed Forces, for all appropriate occasions.

THE SALUTE

*The salute is given with your right hand and **only** when you are in full uniform and wearing a hat.*

At the appropriate moment, or on the command, "To the Front — Salute", you shall:

- A. Bend your right elbow and open the palm of your right hand;
- B. Move your hand by its shortest route to the peak of your cap.

When the salute is completed:

- A. The palm of your hand is facing downward.
- B. Your thumb and fingers are fully extended and close together.
- C. The tip of your second finger is lined up with the outside of your right eyebrow and touching the outside edge of the peak of your hat.
- D. Your hand, wrist and forearm are in a straight line.
- E. Your elbow is lined up with your shoulders and your upper arm is parallel to the ground.

At the appropriate moment, or on the command, "Squad", "Platoon", "Company", etc. your hand is brought sharply down to the position of attention, by the shortest route, without slapping your thigh. Your hand is closed after your forearm is lowered below shoulder level.

This sounds more complicated than it really is. Practice as a group or in front of a mirror will perfect the movement. Remember the following points:

- A. The shortest way up and the shortest way down.
- B. Your hand is at approximately a 45 degree angle to the peak of your hat.
- C. Once you begin the salute, carry it through smoothly and smartly.