

LOSAP Covid Points.

In FY 2020, the Fire Commission granted 16 points for COVID. Those points were allocated to FY 2019 for Administrative Members and Auxiliary Members. There was no guidance to Departments on the method to be used to allocate the points.

At the end of FY 2020 the Fire Commission announced that 32 points would be allowed for LOSAP purposes to all members. Again no guidance.

As advertised, the points could be allocated in any manner at the discretion of the company or the member.

For example, the 32 points could be allocated in July 2020. This would affect the 2021 LOSAP year and the 2020 tax year. Now a member with only 18 points for tax purposes, will have qualified for TAX and the company will need to amend their state report and the member will need to file an amended State Tax Return.

Or, the 32 points could be allocated January 2021 and that would affect 2021 Fiscal Year LOSAP and 2021 Calendar Year Tax.

Or, perhaps each LOSAP Coordinator or Member would need to determine the allocation that would best suit the member.

For these reasons, the LOSAP Coordinators need guidance on the process for point allocation. Should the points be split among Training, Meetings, Officer or Committee Chair, Responses, Duty Crew, Sleep In or Collateral Duty.

I would suggest that the points be allocated among Collateral Duty and Meetings. This will keep the points out of operational categories, ie Duty Crew, Sleep In, Responses, Company Drills. Allocating points in these categories could have implications should the member have a Workers Compensation claim. Workers Compensation often inquires about operational points for award purposes.

It seems it would not be appropriate to allocate the points in the Officer, Committee Category which has points allocated based on months of service.

Questions about the published policy.

Special COVID LOSAP Award Policy for 2021

The Fire Commission approved a special 2021 COVID LOSAP points award due to closed fire stations. Up to 36 LOSAP points will be granted to any volunteer that meets the following criteria:

- 1) volunteer must be a member in good standing,
Good Standing Now or during the Fiscal Year.
- 2) must not be under any disciplinary action, and

Vague. Does this mean innocent or guilty? now or during the Fiscal Year? Any pro Ration? or let's say extra duty for not attending duty crew, Disqualified for entire year?

- 3) the volunteer must have been awarded LOSAP points in both of the previous 2 years. LOSAP Points must have been awarded, no requirement for qualified? Member who earned 1 point in each of the prior 2 years is eligible. Note: Some companies do not report members with less than 50 points.

Also, what about Transfers? If a member transfers mid year, the member could be credited with 32 points at each company. When combined the member will have qualified.

Therefore I suggest the following as the policy for the FY 2021 COVID LOSAP Points.

Special COVID LOSAP Service Credit Policy - Proposed

Eligibility: Members of Volunteer Fire Companies who qualified for LOSAP purposes in the immediately preceding 2 fiscal years.

Point Allocation: 3 points per month allocated between Collateral Duty or Meetings as deemed appropriate by the Company.

For reporting purposes:

Under Collateral Duty Report Activity COVID and the total points.

Under Meetings Report Total Meetings. The Company should create supporting documentation for Meetings with a notation COVID Service Credit for the type of meeting.