

# **RIO HONDO COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Department of Public Safety

Fire Technology Division

## **EMT Program**

### **Grooming and Appearance Standard**

Many factors influence the community's confidence in Emergency Personnel and in our training program. The image we present to the community must be one of professionalism. Our appearance is of utmost importance.

#### ***Tattoos, Branding and Body Art***

- ❖ It is the standard of this EMT program that should a student or instructional staff member have any tattoo, scarification, or branding, an attempt shall be made to cover it/them by the approved uniform or sleeve during all class meetings.
- ❖ Any tattoo, scarification or branding shall NOT be visible while on field/clinical rotations or representing the College in any official capacity. Tattoos, scarifications or brandings must be covered with an approved uniform, including, but not limited to, a long-sleeve shirt, jacket or tattoo sleeve.
- ❖ The display of a tattoo, scarification or branding considered inappropriate, unprofessional or offensive, regardless of its location, by any staff member or student of the College, while in class, performing field/clinical experience or representing the College in any official capacity is strictly prohibited.
- ❖ The following includes, but is not limited to, the types of tattoos, scarifications or brands prohibited by this policy:
  - ✓ Depictions of nudity or violence.
  - ✓ Sexually explicit or vulgar art, words, phrases or profane language.
  - ✓ Symbols likely to incite a strong reaction in the workplace, i.e., swastikas, pentagrams or similar symbols.
  - ✓ Initials, acronyms or numbers that represent criminal or historically oppressive organizations, *(any street gang names, numbers, and/or symbols.)*

#### ***Piercings / Jewelry***

- ❖ The following standards for piercing and jewelry are in place for student safety. Students, during skills lab and/or field/clinical experience, may suffer injuries to pierced areas during skills practice labs or patient encounters (i.e., combative/altered patients). These standards are also in place to aid in the professional appearance the community expects from EMS personnel.
  - ✓ Conservative jewelry is permitted and a watch is mandatory.
  - ✓ For safety and professional appearance reasons, the wearing of earrings by male students is prohibited unless otherwise approved by the EMT program director.
  - ✓ Studded earrings only are permitted for females. The earrings shall be plain and no more than ¼" in diameter.
  - ✓ Hanging, hoops or "plug" earrings are strictly prohibited.
  - ✓ Earrings may only be worn in the earlobes.
  - ✓ While performing any field/clinical experience, female students may only wear one set of stud-type earrings with only one earring per ear.
  - ✓ The piercing and wearing of associated jewelry in all other visible parts of the body is strictly prohibited

## ***Hair / Facial Hair***

- ❖ The following standards for hair and facial hair are in place for student safety. Students, during skills lab and/or field/clinical experience, may suffer injuries during skills practice labs or patient encounters (i.e., combative/altered patients). These standards are also in place to aid in the professional appearance the community expects from EMS personnel.
  - ✓ Conservative hair styles are permitted.
  - ✓ Hair shall not be “spiked” or worn in a “Mohawk” style.
  - ✓ Long hair shall be contained and worn up.
  - ✓ Hair color will be only a “natural” color. (No rainbow colors)
  - ✓ Men will be clean shaven. Beards, Van Dykes or goatees are NOT permitted as they interfere with the N-95 mask seal)
  - ✓ Mustaches must not extend downward beyond the lip line of the upper lip or extend sideways greater than beyond the mouth. Must not interfere with N-95 mask seal.
  - ✓ Sideburns if worn and in compliance with the aforementioned statement regarding facial hair, must be neatly trimmed and tapered. They must be straight and of even width (not flared) and end in a clean shaven horizontal line and NOT extend below the lowest part of the ear.

## ***Cosmetics / Colognes / Perfumes***

- ❖ Cosmetics must be conservative and in good taste. Cosmetics that may be worn are limited to mascara, soft or muted color eye shadows, foundations and soft toned lipstick applied lightly.
  - ✓ Cosmetics considered not in good taste or not compliment skin tones of student are not allowed.
  - ✓ Perfumes and colognes giving an overpowering or unpleasant scent are not permitted as they could cause health problems for the patient.