



# Badges

## CAL FIRE Badges

### State Board of Forestry

1900-1940's – This shield design is one of several different variations of this style of badge. The pictured badge is the larger of two sizes of this style shield. Although developed for Volunteer Fire Wardens, later versions of this style badge were also issued to some CDF Forest Firefighter Foreman for the purpose of fire law enforcement.



### Division of Forestry

1928-1950's – This badge is a sterling silver Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, six-point star with a gold center seal. The first series of this style badge, with the ranger rocker, were issued to Rangers Brock, VanFleet, Sweetwood, Dixon, Bengard, Neil, Holland, Moberg, and Doney. The badge pictured was issued in 1928 to Ranger Charles Van Fleet in Riverside.



1940's-1961 - This is a Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry sterling silver six-point star with gold center seal badge, with no ball tips or rocker on top. The pictured badge was issued to Ranger James Elmer Chambers in 1950. This style badge was issued to the classifications: State Forester, Chief Deputy State Forester, Deputy State Forester, Assistant Deputy State Forester, State Forest Ranger, Associate State Forest Ranger and Assistant State Forest Ranger. Although this style badge is no longer issued, they are still being worn.



1940-1960's – This Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry series of shield badges carried the titles of State Fire Fighter, State Fire Truck Driver and State Fire Foreman. These were first issued just before WWII. The badge pictured here was issued to David L. Flake. These badges were not well received, because of their simplicity and small size. They were typically worn on the flap of the khaki shirt pocket or on the watch pocket of their denim jeans. All were numbered.



1945-1970's - This Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry badge was issued to Forest Firefighter Foreman and the Forestry Work Project Foreman. This badge was known as the "walking bear" badge. It stayed in service until 1970 when it was replaced with the bear top shield style badge and the title was changed to Fire Captain. During the 1970's, some Fire Prevention Assistants were issued this badge.



1961-1977 - This Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry badge is a sterling silver six-point star with a gold center seal. This style badge was issued to the following classifications: State Forest Ranger I, II, III, and IV. The pictured badge was issued to State Forest Ranger I Glen Newman in Riverside County Corona District on December 02, 1974.





1971-1977 - This is a Department of Conservation, Division of Forestry shield badge with a bear top. It was a major style change from previous CDF badges. Many new titles were used, including Fireman, Engineer, Captain, Equipment Operator, Crew Foreman, Fire Prevention and Trainee. Bob Ford was the designer of this style badge. Although no longer issued, this style badge is still being worn.



### Department of Forestry

1977-1993 - This Department of Forestry badge is a sterling silver sixpoint star with a gold center seal and was issued to the following classifications: Director, Deputy Director, Ranger Unit Chief, Division Chief, Battalion Chief, all Forester positions, and Forestry Equipment Manager positions. Rank was denoted by collar brass. The pictured badge was issued to Battalion Chief Larry Benson on January 30, 1980.



1977-1993 - This Department of Forestry badge retained the previous shield design - adding the new wording and additional titles. The titles used on these badges were: Fireman, Engineer, Captain, Crew Foreman, Assistant Fire Prevention, Fire Prevention, Forestry Pilot, Forestry Mechanic, Mobile Equipment Manager, Trainee, and California (a generic title that was to be used for all other positions). Although no longer issued, this style badge is still being worn.



### Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

1993- Current - This Department of Forestry and Fire Protection shield badge with the bear on top is the current badge. It is issued to the following classifications: Firefighter, Firefighter II, Engineer, Captain, Equipment Operator, Fire Prevention, Pilot, Dispatcher Clerk, Forestry Technician, Forestry Assistant, Mechanic, and Logistics Officer.



2001- Current - This is the current issue Chiefs badge. It is issued to the following classifications: Chief, Deputy Chief, Division Chief, Battalion Chief, Forester, Senior Equipment Manager, Equipment Manager, Senior Aviation Officer, Aviation Officer. The pictured badge was issued to Jim Wright, Deputy Director Fire Protection.

Most excerpts and photos provided by Steve Huntington

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