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Checklist

Print off this simple checklist before you hit the fire stations. Keep it with you until you become proficient at taking apparatus shots. Soon it will become second nature.

- Camera, with digital media or film (ASA 100 recommended).
- Spare batteries, charger.
- Notepad and pen for getting truck details. Take note of any unusual aspects.
- Two traffic cones to assist the Apparatus Operator with truck placement.
- A bottle of Armor-All or similar for tire shine. Be sure to get the OK first.
- Disposable rags for the Armor-All.
- Be aware of the time of day. Avoid high noon sun. Spring and fall are best.
- Scout out the background for obstructions, visual clutter.
- No people or other vehicles in the scene.
- All lights off, including warning and running lights.
- Windows rolled up, compartment doors closed.
- Clear the dash of distractions: map books, helmets, etc.
- Close station overhead door if taking a shot on the apron of the station.
- Check your angle for proper lighting.
- If the driver uses a wheel chock, move it to the side opposite of your shot.
- Advanced users: wet the pavement for a sexy shot!
- Fill the frame with 90% of the rig.
- Watch for a sneaky shadow from trees, flagpole, etc.
- Get the typical 3/4 shot of the driver's side.
- Take several shots, submit the best ones later.
- Thank the firefighters for their time. Ask if they would like copies. Make sure to follow-up on any promises.

Apparatus Details:

Fire Department

Unit Number

Year Manufactured

Manufacturer

Pump GPM

Tank Capacity

Aerial Size

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