

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 410
Occupational Health and Safety
Hearing Conservation
5/25/2001

- I. Scope
This standard established a hearing conservation program for the department. It was promulgated to prevent fire department related hearing impairment.
- II. Audiometric Testing
As a part of the entry-level medical examination, a member shall be required to have a baseline audiogram performed. The baseline audiogram will become a part of the member's permanent medical history file.
- III. Hearing Conservation
 - A. Warning signs will be posted at the entrance to or on the periphery of work areas where members may be exposed to a suspected sound level of 90 dBA or greater.
 - B. Warning signs will clearly indicate that the area is a noise hazard area and that hearing protection must be worn while in the area.
 - C. Hearing protection shall be mandatory in all areas marked as hearing protection areas.
 - D. Hearing protection shall also be worn when noisy jobs or tasks are being performed in an area not posted as a hearing protection area, such as:
 1. While performing noisy tasks such as operating saws, air tools, fire pumps, etc.
 2. Whenever a member has to raise his / her voice to be heard.
 - E. Whenever possible, high noise exposures will be reduced to acceptable levels by using administrative or engineering controls.
 - F. Personal protective equipment will be provided and worn by members when administrative and engineering controls are not feasible or prove ineffective in reducing high noise exposures to acceptable levels.
- IV. Responsibilities
 - A. The safety officer shall be responsible for identification of products, systems, or operations where the noise level exceeds or is expected to exceed 90 dBA and for developing control procedures to mitigate the hazard.
 - B. Officers shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions of this standard and for immediately correcting any deficiencies that might occur.
 - C. Each member shall be responsible for strictly adhering to the provisions of this standard and for wearing an approved hearing protection device whenever a hearing protection sign is displayed or whenever engaged in an activity where the noise is expected to exceed 90 dBA.