

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.01.03 ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/01/18
Revised: 00/00/00

Approved: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Huber", is written over a horizontal line.

Purpose: To specify the minimum requirements for an occupational safety and health program for Spokane County Fire Protection District 8, and safety procedures for those individuals involved in fire suppression, rescue, and related activities.

References: WAC 296-305-01505, WAC 296-24-040

Background: Firefighting has been recognized as one of the most hazardous occupations in North America in terms of occupational death and injury statistics. Each year in recent history, over 100 line of duty deaths have been recorded among career and volunteer firefighters in the United States alone. The statistics compiled annually by NFPA on fire service deaths and injuries are more than sufficient evidence to demonstrate the need for increased efforts to reduce this toll.

In addition to the direct line of duty deaths, there is growing concern with the number of firefighters who suffer disabling injuries or develop occupational diseases and conditions that often have debilitating or fatal consequences and force them to discontinue their fire service activities. The link between respiratory and heart disease and fire service careers has been well documented and established. There is growing evidence of a similar link to cancer and related diseases, derived from occupational exposures to carcinogens, toxic products of combustion, and hazardous materials.

The Fire Service is not only involved in fire suppression activities, but has an increasing role in the delivery of Emergency Medical and rescue services and response to incidents involving hazardous materials. The firefighter may be exposed to a wide range of dangers arising from these activities that present an even more complex set of occupational health and safety concerns. There is a growing concern, as well, with the aspects of Fire District activities and functions that are directly related to stress, emotions, and psychological consequences of providing emergency services.

Many of the objectives of this section may be achieved in a variety of ways. The achievement of these objectives is intended to help prevent accidents, injuries, and exposures that do occur. They will also help to prevent exposure to hazardous materials and contagious diseases and reduce the probability of occupational fatalities, illnesses, and disabilities affecting fire service personnel.

Fire District 8 will participate in the prevention and reduction of accidents, injuries and occupational illnesses and provide and operate with the highest levels of safety attainable under the conditions which members are or will be exposed.

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Procedure:

1. The District Safety Officer (DSO) will be assigned by the Fire Chief.
2. Safety Orientation Program.
 - a) The District's Safety Orientation Program shall include:
 - i. How and when to report injuries, including instruction as to the location of first-aid facilities and equipment (see SOP 40.03.04).
 - ii. How to report unsafe conditions and practices.
 - iii. The use and care of required personal protective equipment (see SOP Section 40.03 Operational Safety).
 - iv. The proper actions to take in the event of an emergency including the routes of exit from an area during an emergency.
 - v. Identification of the hazardous gases, chemicals or materials used by the District.
 - vi. A description of the District's total safety program.
 - vii. An on-the-job review of the practices necessary to perform the initial job assignments in a safe manner.
3. Safety Committee.
 - a) The District's Safety Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Fire Chief (see SOP 40.01.08).
4. Facility Inspections.
 - a) A safety inspection shall be conducted at each fire station on a monthly basis.
 - b) The DSO or his/her designee shall conduct this inspection and it shall include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Tools.
 - ii. Apparatus.
 - iii. Extinguishers.
 - iv. Protective equipment.
 - v. Life safety equipment.
 - vi. Interior and exterior of station.
 - c) Records shall be maintained indicating that this inspection has been completed and noting any concerns observed during the inspection.