

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.03.02
EYE, FACE, HEARING
PROTECTION



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/18/21
Revised: 11/18/21

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jan S. Rehn".

Purpose: To provide standards for member safety.

References: WAC 296-305-02004 (2018 revision embedded within 02004 (2))
WAC 296-817-20000
Hearing Protection-General Occupational Health Standards

Procedure:

1. Spokane County Fire District 8 will administer a continuing, effective, hearing conservation program to identify and reduce or eliminate potentially harmful sources of noise in the work environment and whenever members' noise exposure equal or exceed an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels (dBA).
 - a) Noise levels in apparatus and in the station/work area will be determined by the District Safety Officer for the purpose of the hearing conservation program.
 - b) The hearing conservation program shall be provided at no cost to members.
 - c) Audiometric testing will be provided to members annually at no expense to the member.
 - d) Where audiometric testing indicates a significant hearing loss for members, the District shall address these conditions on an individual basis, as well as take steps to control potentially harmful noise exposure to any or all other members.
 - e) Hearing and eye protection shall be provided for and used by all members when exposed to an eight-hour time-weighted average of 85 dBA or greater or when exposed to noise in excess of 115 dBA from power tools, engine warm-ups, drafting, or other such activities, except in situations where the use of such protective equipment would create an additional hazard to the user such as in fire suppression.
 - f) All members shall participate in the hearing conservation training program.
 - g) Annual training is required in the use and care of all hearing protectors provided to members.
2. The Fire District will provide members with hearing protectors when existing fire apparatus cannot be brought into compliance with WAC.
3. Responsibility.
 - a) The District Safety Officer is responsible for administering the District's Hearing Conservation Program.

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- i. Members are responsible for selecting the appropriate level of hearing protection consistent with the risk or hazard involved.

4. Guidelines.

- a) Hearing protectors will be given to members for potential use during emergency situations where loud noise is present.
- b) Members should use the hearing protection provided during non-emergency situations where loud noise is present; e.g. pump tests, apparatus and power equipment checks, and on appropriate drills.