

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

10.02.19
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER
DISABILITY AND PENSION



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 12/15/23
Revised: 12/15/23
Approved: Lonnie J. Rash

Purpose: To outline the duties of the State Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers in administration of the Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers Relief and Pension, RCW 41.24, the “Act”.

References: Revised Code of Washington 41.24

Procedure:

1. State Board.
 - a) The State Board for Volunteer Firefighters consists of three members of fire departments covered by the Act and appointed by the governor to serve overlapping six-year terms.
 - b) The State Board shall:
 - i. Supply all forms.
 - ii. Review all claims.
 - iii. Certify all retirements.
 - iv. Authorize all payments.
2. Local Board of Trustees.
 - a) The Local Board consists of:
 - i. The Chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners.
 - ii. One other fire commissioner.
 - iii. The Fire Chief.
 - iv. One volunteer firefighter elected annually by his/her peers.
 - v. The District Secretary.
 - b) The Local Board of Trustees is responsible for the administration of the Act at the local level.
 - c) The duty of the Local Board is to:
 - i. Keep public records of all proceedings.
 - ii. Maintain receipts and disbursements made by the Board.
 - iii. Enroll all eligible members in the Disability Provision of the Act.
3. Physical Examinations for New Members.
 - a) A physical examination is required for all prospective members based upon the recommendation of the State Board.
4. Physical Agility Test.
 - a) Members who will respond as a firefighter shall complete a physical agility test based upon the recommendation of the State Board.

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5. Accident Reporting.

- a) If a firefighter covered under the relief provision is injured in the performance of duty, notification shall be made to:
 - i. The 820 Officer.
 - ii. The Fire Chief.
 - iii. The Local Board Secretary.
- b) The Local Board Secretary shall complete a Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers on-line Accident Report Card within 90 days of an accident.
- c) A regular report of the accident must be filed with the State Board before any claims can be paid.

6. Line of Duty Disability.

- a) Disability compensation is provided for an eligible members who is unable to work at his/her regular job or occupation as a result of an injury in the performance of duty.
 - i. The disability determination period and relief provision are outlined by the Act.

7. Death Insurance.

- a) Death and funeral benefits are provided by the Act for a member who is killed during the performance of duty.
- b) A survivor's pension is provided for the spouse and/or surviving dependent children of a member killed during the performance of duty.
- c) Notification of death shall be made immediately to the State Board.

8. Pension Eligibility.

- a) Effective January 1, 1996, the District will contribute the full cost of the annual pension fee to BVFF for each eligible member.
- b) In order to be eligible for pension credit, members must meet annual participation requirements set in the Act.

9. Pension Benefits.

- a) Pension benefits are set by the Act and disbursed by the Board for Volunteer Firefighters.