

Standard Operating Guidelines

HEARING CONSERVATION

Guideline # 140.05

Date: 3/09R

PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to provide firefighters with a hearing protection program.

SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all firefighters of District # 3.

PROCEDURE

This department shall make every reasonable effort to prevent noise exposure over 90 decibels and to keep the time weighted average below 85 decibels for an eight hour equivalent work day. Where exposure cannot be prevented, hearing protection devices shall be provided and their use shall be required. Firefighters will be provided with hearing protection devices such as ear muffs or foam ear plugs. These devices are to be worn when the decibel level is above 85. For reference purposes normal conservation is around sixty dba. Due to this, firefighters are required to wear hearing protection devices while performing tasks around the firehouse that exceed 85 dba, Some of those tasks are as follows, but not limited to:

Truck Checks, Cascade system use, P.P.V. use, Power saw use, Siren and air horn Tests, Air compressor use, Truck and building generator checks, P.A.S.S. device testing, Pump testing, Lawn mower use, Power tool use.

The only exception to the use of hearing protection devices is, during situations that might create an additional hazard to the user.

Headsets shall be worn on apparatus providing same.

Firefighters will be required to have yearly audiometric testing.

This program will be updated and modified accordingly on an ongoing basis.

Approved:

Date:

District Chief: