Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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1. NUMBER: 10.2.1

2. SUBJECT: ***Hearing Conservation Program***

3. POLICY: The following hearing conservation program has been established to ensure that the dangers of excessive noise levels are known by all affected Grant County Fire District 3 personnel (including office staff). This is in accordance with WAC 296-305-02004 Standard. (Hearing Conservation Program)

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

   A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for:

      1. Ensuring that all personnel adhere to this Policy and Procedure.
      2. Reviewing the District's Hearing Conservation Program annually.

   B. The Training Officer is responsible for: The initial hearing conservation program training.

   C. The Safety Committee is responsible for:

      1. Monitoring the hearing conservation program.
      2. Assuring that all personnel are advised of any new or additional information.
      3. Testing the noise levels in apparatus and in the station/work area for the purpose of the hearing conservation program.

   D. It is the responsibility of all personnel to follow this hearing conservation program.

6. PROCEDURE:

   A. This procedure is intended for members when noise exposure levels are equal to or exceed an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels. (dBA).

   B. The hearing conservation program shall be provided at no cost to employees or members.

   C. Hearing 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.

D. Annual training is required in the use and care of all hearing protection devices provided to members.

E. For existing fire apparatus that cannot be brought into compliance with the referenced WAC, Grant County Fire District 3 will provide members with hearing protectors.

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

G. Members should use the hearing protection provided during non-emergency situations where loud noises are present, such as pump tests, apparatus and power equipment checks and on appropriate drills.