Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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1. NUMBER: 4.3.08

2. SUBJECT: ***Safety***

3. POLICY: The District will make every effort to remedy safety problems as quickly as possible. It is the District's goal to ensure a safe work environment for all personnel. This Policy and Procedure is established to define that process.

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 ensuring that this Policy and Procedure is adhered to.

   B. All personnel are responsible for complying with this Policy and Procedure.

   C. Station officers and Command will inform the District Fire Chief of all unsafe or potentially hazardous conditions and any actions taken.

6. PROCEDURE:

   . In case of an accident involving a personal injury, regardless of how serious, personnel shall immediately notify their immediate supervisor and the District Fire Chief.

   A. Proper safety precautions will minimize accidents. Dangerous duties will confront every firefighter many times during his/her Fire District career and many risks must be taken regardless of the danger involved: however, the inexcusable accidents resulting from negligence are the ones with which we are mainly concerned. These occur most commonly in and around station quarters, and disciplinary measures in these cases can be severe. The following safety measures shall be taken to avoid many of the so-termed "inexcusable" accidents.

      1. When answering an alarm, do not be too hasty. Speed will come with practice. Keep your eyes open for other members of your company who will also be responding. Keep your eyes open for other emergency vehicles that might be responding. It is possible to not hear other sirens that might be synchronized with your own. Use care in getting on apparatus, keeping a firm grip on handrails or ladders. Be careful when getting off of apparatus at the fire. Wait until apparatus has stopped before getting off. When the occasion arises that you have to flag traffic, face the

oncoming traffic instead of turning your back to it. When backing up apparatus, operators must have a firefighter guide them from the rear.

2. Keep passageways clear of cleaning equipment so that in case of an alarm, confusion will be eliminated. Place all cleaning gear out of the way if you are called away to some other task. When a job is complete, return the gear to its proper place.
3. Eliminate the backing operation whenever possible. Use rear view mirrors, but if you are not sure, get out and look.
4. Gasoline shall not ever be used for cleaning equipment, tools, motors, floors, etc. Cleaning solvent shall be provided and used for any such cleaning.
5. When using ladders for cleaning and for other purposes around the station, be certain they are in good condition and are securely anchored.
6. While showing visitors through fire stations, firefighters will not allow them to do anything that would prove injurious. Children will not be permitted to run around unsupervised. If an alarm is sounded while showing visitors through stations, be certain they are clear from doors and apparatus. Visitors, in areas other than entry foyers, must be accompanied by a member of Grant County Fire District 3.
7. Wet, soapy floors are extremely slippery and can be very dangerous. When mopping or scrubbing floors, complete a small section at a time.
8. Personnel shall promptly cause all persons in danger from burning buildings, or from adjoining premises to be moved to a safe position with the least possible danger to life and limbs.
9. Personnel shall exercise precautionary measures to avoid injury to themselves and others while in the performance of duty.
10. No one shall either jokingly or maliciously turn a stream of water from a line or extinguisher or direct or cause it to be directed upon any person or into any premises unnecessarily.
11. All fire line qualified and probationary members shall be provided with turnout gear of the approved type, and all members, whose duty it is to engage in firefighting shall wear fire helmets and turnouts from time of receipt of alarm to rehousing of apparatus. Exception: Apparatus drivers are not required to wear helmets or turnout coats while responding. (this equipment may be dispensed with after the immediate emergency at the discretion of the officer in charge.)
12. The District Fire Chief shall appoint a Safety Officer as required by WAC 296 (Vertical Standards).

B. A Safety Committee shall be established as follows:

1. The Safety Committee shall be comprised of the District Fire Chief or designee, the Safety Officer, and one (1) person from each station.

2. The Safety Officer shall be appointed by the District Fire Chief
3. Station Representatives shall be selected by a vote of the general body of each station.
4. The Safety Committee shall meet as the need may arise, but no less than one time each calendar quarter.
5. The duties of the Safety Committee shall be to report and recommend changes from unsafe practices at training sessions, emergency situations, and fire stations.
6. The Committee may recommend disciplinary action (to the District Fire Chief) for safety violations as the need would arise.
7. In case of an accident, the Safety Committee shall function as an Accident Review Board.
8. The Accident Review Board will review the accident to determine probable cause and make recommendations for prevention of similar accidents in the future.
9. If a member of the Safety Committee is involved in an accident, they shall not serve on the Accident Review Board.

C. Horn signals (not the air horn) shall normally be used by drivers of all vehicles and are required for:

1. When clear vision in the direction of travel is obscured.
2. Where congestion in the area requires a warning to bystanders.
3. Where necessary to warn other people in or on the vehicle of your intended actions.
4. Proper horn signals are:
   (1) One -- Stop
   (2) Two -- Forward or OK to move forward.
   (3) Three -- Reverse or OK to move backward.

D. Civilians (including family members of personnel) shall not ride in or on the apparatus, except as required to deal with an emergency and as authorized by District Fire Chief.

E. Whenever practicable, water shall be turned into hose lines which are to be operated from ladders, roofs or other heights, only after such lines have been secured in position.

F. Before lowering hose from ladders, roofs or other heights after completion of extinguishing operations, the water shall be first drained at the street level.

G. As a safety measure, nozzles shall be shut off after attachment to hose lines and at any other time when the flow from the nozzle ceases.

H. At fires, debris is not to be thrown from a height unless essential in the extinguishment of fire. When necessary that material be thrown or glass be broken, great care must be taken that the falling material will do no serious damage or cause injury to anyone. When debris from a fire is left on a public street, sidewalk, or parkway, and in the opinion of the officer in charge it represents a hazard to the public, the dispatch shall be alerted immediately to notify the Street/Road Maintenance Department to erect such barricades and lights as they deem necessary for safety.

I. Only authorized persons shall be permitted in a fire building or on any premises of which the District is still in charge.

J. A rope safety line shall be secured around members before permitting them to descent into manholes, elevator shafts, deep pits, etc., the following line signals will be used:

Number of Pulls	To Indicate	
1	All Well	O.K.
2	Advance	A
3	Take up	T
4	Help	H