

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>HEARING PROTECTION</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>PPG# 4200.14</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Operations</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>7/1/98</b>

## **1.0 POLICY**

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- 1.1** Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 will administer a continuing, effective, hearing conservation program whenever members noise exposure equal or exceed an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels (dBA).
- 1.2** Noise levels in apparatus and in the station/work area will be determined by the Safety Officer for the purpose of the hearing conservation program.
- 1.3** The hearing conservation program shall be provided at no cost to employees/members.
- 1.4** 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 - up's, 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.
- 1.5** All members shall participate in the hearing conservation training program.
- 1.6** Annual training is required in the use and care of all hearing protectors provided to members.
- 1.7** For existing fire apparatus that cannot be brought into compliance with the referenced WAC Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 will provide members with hearing protectors.

## **2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- 2.1** The Assistant Chief of Operations is responsible for administering the Department Hearing Conservation Program.
- 2.2** Members are responsible for selecting the appropriate level of hearing protection consistent with the risk or hazard involved.

### **3.0 GUIDELINES**

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- 3.1** Hearing protectors will be placed on each apparatus for each assigned person.
- 3.2** 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.

### **4.0 REFERENCES**

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WAC 296-305-02005  
Chapter 296-62 WAC, Part K  
[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, .050, .060. 96-11-067 (Order 94-27), §296-305-02005, filed 05/10/96, effective 01/01/97.]