



City of Tumwater Fire Department

- With the possibility of regionalization of fire services, establish 3 Battalion Chief Commander positions when and if regionalization becomes a reality

FOLLOW UP RESPONSIBILITY: Fire Chief

HEALTH AND SAFETY

SECTION 2

GOAL: To protect the health and safety of Department members through effective training, education, programs, and management. To develop operating guidelines that prevents injuries, illness, and maximizes health.

Health and Safety are of primary concern to all Department members. Health and safety are affected by many factors including training, equipment, facilities, operating procedures, staffing, medical supervision, government regulations, environment, lifestyle and nutrition, as well as attitude, awareness and perception. The Department supports the City Employee Wellness Program and has members on the City Wellness Team.

The department should also remain on the forefront of the annual “National Firefighter Safety Stand Down.” Such a method is used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a safety problem throughout its ranks. The fire service has adopted this to raise awareness toward firefighter safety and call attention to unacceptable number of deaths and injuries plaguing our industry. The Safety Stand Down utilizes safety themes once a year in June and is supported by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, Firefighters and the Volunteer Council.

Health will be addressed and maintained through:

- Major emphasis on physical fitness, health, wellness and safety (existing fire department employee)
- A department physical fitness/health/wellness officer
- Medical examinations for Emergency services personnel on a 12 – month cycle. Medical examinations for Paramedics will be reimbursed based on the Intergovernmental EMS Contract
- Facilities built or remodeled with emphasis on employee health and comfort
- Emphasis on receiving stress/mental wellness management as needed and required
- Providing appropriate inoculations and communicable disease screenings, including TB, Hepatitis and Influenza



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Injury Reduction Program:

Safety will be addressed and maintained through:

- Mandatory completion of a course geared toward back injuries
- Weekly safety messages to all members to increase the level of awareness
- Department wide publication of all accident/injury statistics generated through quarterly safety meetings
- Driver training for all personnel on a two – year cycle
- A comprehensive fire apparatus preventative maintenance program
- Emergency incident management training and accountability training
- Formal review of all industrial injuries and accidents, and report of findings, in letter format, to all involved including associated costs
- Infectious disease exposure training, tracking, prevention, and provision of appropriate equipment and supplies
- Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) specific reduction to include training yearly and installation of hand sanitizers in all stations
- Compliance with nationally recognized standards and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) mandates
- Strong emphasis on “2 In and 2 Out”, and building construction knowledge
- Continuing education in violent patient management
- Thermal Imaging camera training and mandatory use at structure fires

2016 – 2021 ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Conduct quarterly safety shift meetings
- Conduct fire inspections of all departmental facilities
- Continue personnel protective equipment inspections on an annual basis
- Implement injury reduction program
- Implement a program for nutrition counseling
- Implement a core strengthening program
- Support and participate in the Annual National Firefighter Safety Stand Down
- Evaluate driving in the emergency mode with lights and siren (Code Red Driving) and seatbelt policies
- Evaluate backing procedures at each station so that it is accomplished in a safe manner
- Evaluate the interiors of apparatus for injury prevention in case of an accident, and make improvements

FOLLOW UP RESPONSIBILITY: Fire Chief, Health and Wellness Officer