

407 HEARING PROTECTION

PURPOSE:

This policy will provide effective hearing protection and require its utilization by personnel while engaging in any operation and/or while in areas where the noise levels exceed OSHA standards.

SCOPE:

All active Florence Township Fire Department personal.

GENERAL:

Prolonged exposure to noise (unwanted sound) of certain frequencies and intensities can cause varying degrees of hearing loss. This kind of hearing loss cannot be restored by medical and/or surgical treatment. However noise-induced hearing loss can be PREVENTED for persons whose work is in areas where the noise levels exceed (OSHA) standards by the proper use of HEARING PROTECTION DEVICES.

PROCEDURE:

1. Protection against the effects of noise exposure is required when the sound levels exceed those shown on the following table:

DURATION PER DAY (HOURS)	SOUND LEVELS
8	90dBA
6	92dBA
4	95dHA
3	97dBA
2	100dBA
1.5	102dBA
1	105dBA
.5	110dBA
.25	115dB

2. Exposure to levels above 115 decibels (dBA) is not permitted for any duration. Exposure to impact noise (variation in noise levels at intervals of greater than 1 second) should not exceed 140 dBA.
3. When personnel are subject to sound exceeding those listed in above table, feasible administrative or engineering controls shall be utilized. If such controls fail to reduce sound levels within those levels of the above table, personal protective hearing equipment shall be provided and used to reduce sound levels to levels within the above table.
4. Areas or operations determined to be high noise levels, that is, where the noise levels exceed the OSHA standards, shall be documented for future reference. All personnel shall be informed, during scheduled training sessions, of these areas and/or operations and shall also be informed that hearing protection is required while these areas or performing these operations.

RESPONSIBILITY:

SAFETY OFFICER

1. Shall identify work areas and/or operations where noise is a hazard for categorization of area of operation for purpose of future testing and use of personal hearing protection.
2. Shall coordinate activities of other officers and personnel as necessary for implementation and continuing application of this policy.
3. Shall monitor compliance with the requirements of this policy.
4. Shall review this policy at least annually and shall submit modifications as required to ensure continued compliance with OSHA standards and/or to facilitate efficient application of this policy.
5. Shall require its utilization by personnel while engaging in any operation and/or while in areas where the noise levels exceed the OSHA standard.

ALL MEMBERS

1. Shall use appropriate personal hearing protection at all times in area or while engaging in any operation where the noise levels exceed 115 dBA.
2. Shall at all times other than merely passing through, use appropriate personal hearing protection when in any area or while engaging in any operation where the noise level exceeds the other above stated procedures.