



## MASON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #4

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TITLE: HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

CHAPTER: 2000 NUMBER: 2007 APPROVED: POLICY: 4-24-2012

APPROVED: Signature on file Bob Burbridge, Chief

Fire District #4 will administer a continuing effective hearing conservation program, as described in chapter 296-62 WAC, Part K, Hearing Conservation, except for WAC 296-62-09031(2)(b), whenever employees noise exposure equal or exceed an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels (dBA) measured on the A scale weighing at slow response or, equivalently, a noise dose of fifty percent.

- 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.
- Hearing protection will 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.
- Fire District #4 will institute a hearing conservation training program for all members/employees and will ensure their participation in such programs, meeting the minimum requirements specified in chapter 296-62 WAC, Part K.
- Fire District #4 will provide training in the use and care of all hearing protectors provided to members/employees.
- The training program will be repeated annually for each member/employee included in the hearing conservation program.
  - i. Information provided in the training program will be updated to be consistent with



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changes in protective equipment and work processes.

- For existing fire apparatus that cannot be brought into compliance, Fire District #4 will be required to provide members with hearing protectors.
- Audiometric test will be performed by a licensed or certified audiologist, otolaryngologist, or other qualified physician, or by a technician who is certified by the council of accreditation in occupational hearing conservation. A technician who performs audiometric tests must be responsible to an audiologist, otolaryngologist or other qualified physician.