



Standard Operating Guidelines
Section 220.0

SECTION:		GUIDELINE:	
220.0		Health & Safety	
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Health and Safety

It is the policy of the Evansville Fire District to provide the highest level of safety and health for all members. The Fire District shall make every reasonable effort to provide a safe and healthy work environment, with the goal of the prevention and reduction of accidents, injuries and occupational illnesses. Appropriate training, supervision, procedures, program support and review shall be provided to achieve specific safety and health objectives in all functions and activities.

Health and Safety Officer

- A. A Health and Safety Officer shall be appointed, and will be responsible for managing the Departments safety program and shall report to the Fire Chief or his designee.
- B. The Health and Safety Officer duties shall include, but not be limited to:
 1. Chair the Safety Committee by preparing meeting agendas and notices;
 2. Act as the Incident Safety Officer at incidents, if needed;
 3. Provide input on equipment and protective clothing safety;
 4. Manage the safety inspection program;
 5. Assist with the investigation of all accidents, injuries and exposures;
 6. Maintain accident, injury and exposure statistics;
 7. Make recommendations to reduce or eliminate accidents, injuries or exposures;
 8. Provide for safety education to all Department members.
- C. The Health and Safety Officer qualifications;
 1. The Health and Safety Officer will have and maintain knowledge of current applicable laws, codes and standards regulating occupational safety and health to the fire service;
 2. The Health and Safety Officer will have and maintain knowledge of occupational safety and health hazards involved in emergency operations;
 3. The Health and Safety Officer will have and maintain knowledge of current principles and techniques of safety management;
 4. The Health and Safety Officer will have and maintain knowledge of current health maintenance and physical fitness issues that affect the fire service members;
- D. The Health and Safety Officer will have the responsibility to identify and cause correction of safety and health hazards.
- E. The Health and Safety Officer will have the authority to cause immediate correction of situations that create an imminent hazard to members.
- F. Where no imminent hazards are identified, the Health and Safety Officer shall develop actions to correct the situation within the administrative process of the Fire District.

Department. The Health and Safety Officer shall have the authority to bring notice of such hazards to whom ever has the ability to cause correction.

- G. Functions of the Health and Safety Officer will include, but not be limited to:
1. Development, implementation, and management of a written risk management plan;
 2. Development, review and revision of rules, regulations and standard operating procedures pertaining to the Fire District's occupational safety and health program and that ensure compliance to acceptable standards;
 3. Ensure training in safety procedures relating to all Fire District's operations and functions is provided to all members;
 4. Manage an accident prevention program;
 5. Review specifications for new apparatus, equipment, protective clothing and protective equipment for compliance with applicable safety standards;
 6. Submit recommendations on occupational safety and health to the Fire Chief or his designee;
 7. Ensure that the Fire District's infection control program meets or exceeds the requirements of 29CFR1910.1030, Occupational Exposure to Blood borne Pathogens
 8. Establish a critical incident stress management program.

Incident Safety Officer

- A. An Incident Safety Officer should meet the following requirements:
1. Will have the knowledge, skill and ability to manage incident scene safety;
 2. Will have and maintain a knowledge of safety and health hazards involved in emergency operations;
 3. Will have and maintain a knowledge of building construction;
 4. Will have and maintain a knowledge of the Departments Personnel Accountability System;
 5. Will have and maintain knowledge of incident scene rehabilitation.
- B. The Incident Safety Officer will have the authority at an emergency incident where activities are judged by the Officer to be unsafe or to involve an imminent hazard, have the authority to alter, suspend, or terminate those activities. The Incident Safety Officer will immediately inform the Incident Commander of any actions taken to correct imminent hazards at the emergency scene.
- C. At an emergency incident where an Incident Safety Officer identifies unsafe conditions, operations, or hazards that do not present an imminent danger, the Incident Safety Officer shall take appropriate action through the Incident Commander to mitigate or eliminate the unsafe condition, operation, or hazard at the incident scene.
- D. Functions of the Incident Safety Officer will include, but not be limited to:
1. Be integrated with the incident management system as a command staff member;
 2. Shall monitor conditions, activities and operations to determine whether they fall within the criteria as defined in the Fire Districts risk management plan;
 3. Will ensure that the Incident Commander establishes an incident scene rehabilitation tactical level management unit during emergency operations;
 4. Will monitor the scene and report the status of conditions, hazards and risks to the Incident Commander;
 5. Will ensure that the Fire Districts Personnel Accountability System is being utilized;
 6. Will obtain the incident action plan from the Incident Commander and will provide the Incident Commander with a risk assessment of incident scene operations;
 7. Ensure that established safety zones, collapse zones hot zone and other designated hazard areas are communicated to all members present on scene;

8. Will evaluate motor vehicle scene traffic hazards and apparatus placement and take appropriate actions to mitigate hazards;
9. Monitor radio transmissions and stay alert to transmission barriers that could result in missed, unclear or incomplete communication;
10. Survey and evaluate the hazards associated with the designation of a landing zone and interface with helicopters;
11. Shall ensure that a Rapid Intervention Team is available and ready for deployment;
12. Where a fire has involved a building or buildings, shall advise the Incident Commander of hazards, potential collapse and any fire extension in such building(s);
13. Will evaluate visible smoke and fire conditions and advise the Incident Commander, tactical level management unit officers and company officers on the potential for flashover, backdraft, blow-up or other fire event that could pose a threat to operating teams;
14. Monitor accessibility of entry and egress of structures and the effect it has on the safety of members conducting interior operations;
15. Assist with safety management of Hazardous Materials events.

Health and Safety Committee

- A. The Health and Safety Committee will provide policy guidance pertaining to health and safety issues.
- B. The Health and Safety Officer shall report bi-annually to the Health and Safety Committee on the impact and implementation of the Safety Program and on the effectiveness of any specific program actions.
- C. The Health and Safety Committee will also act as a fact-finding and review agency with the authority to cause immediate corrective action when any hazardous condition or practice is detected.
- D. The Health and Safety Committee will:
 1. Meet at least bi-annually to review safety issues and concerns;
 2. Review effectiveness of safety activities;
 3. Develop and implement safety procedures;
 4. Make a written record of its meetings available to all fire fighters in the Fire District.
- E. The Health and Safety Committee may include:
 1. Fire Chief
 2. Assistant Fire Chief
 3. Department Training Officer
 4. Health and Safety Officer
 5. Incident Safety Officers
 6. Firefighters

