

Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

1. NUMBER: 10.2.1
2. SUBJECT: *Hearing Conservation Program*
3. POLICY: The following hearing conservation program has been established to ensure that the dangers of excessive noise levels are known by all affected Grant County Fire District 3 personnel (including office staff). This is in accordance with WAC 296-305-02004 Standard. (Hearing Conservation Program)
4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of Grant County Fire District 3.
5. RESPONSIBILITIES:
 - A. The District Fire Chief is responsible for:
 1. Ensuring that all personnel adhere to this Policy and Procedure.
 2. Reviewing the District's Hearing Conservation Program annually.
 - B. The Training Officer is responsible for: The initial hearing conservation program training.
 - C. The Safety Committee is responsible for:
 1. Monitoring the hearing conservation program.
 2. Assuring that all personnel are advised of any new or additional information.
 3. Testing the noise levels in apparatus and in the station/work area for the purpose of the hearing conservation program.
 - D. It is the responsibility of all personnel to follow this hearing conservation program.
6. PROCEDURE:
 - A. This procedure is intended for members when noise exposure levels are equal to or exceed an eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) sound level of 85 decibels. (dBA).

- B. The hearing conservation program shall be provided at no cost to employees or members.
- C. 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-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.
- D. Annual training is required in the use and care of all hearing protection devices provided to members.
- E. For existing fire apparatus that cannot be brought into compliance with the referenced WAC, Grant County Fire District 3 will provide members with hearing protectors.
- F. Members are responsible for selecting the appropriate level of hearing protection consistent with the risk or hazard involved.
- G. Members should use the hearing protection provided during non-emergency situations where loud noises are present, such as pump tests, apparatus and power equipment checks and on appropriate drills.