

# TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

## CHAPTER 1: ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

Part 2: Administrative Policies

Subject: Hearing/Noise Protection

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Section: 1-2-3

Effective Date: 07-01-95

Revised Date:

- 3.01 Purpose. To provide a guideline for hearing protection during the use of department equipment and audible warning devices in an effort to prevent acute or chronic damage to firefighters hearing.
- 3.02 Goal. This guideline applies to all personnel, during both emergency and non-emergency use of equipment and audible warning devices.
- 3.03 Audible warning use restrictions:
- A) Audible warning devices, including siren and airhorn, shall not be sounded under the following conditions:
    - 1) Anytime when the apparatus is parked inside the apparatus bay.
    - 2) As part of a station tour.
    - 3) When the apparatus is part of a parade.
    - 4) When the apparatus is part of a static display.
    - 5) As sounding a greeting towards other vehicles or persons.
  - B) The intent of this is to eliminate all non-essential use of audible warning devices.
- 3.04 Incident Reponse.
- A) Personnel operating Fire Department apparatus when responding to an emergency shall conform to Wisconsin State Statute 346.03 regarding the use of emergency lights and audible warning devices.
- 3.05 Testing of Audible Warning Devices.
- A) Audible warning devices shall be tested according to Fire Department policy and as deemed necessary by the station mechanic but only under the following conditions:
    - 1) The vehicle is parked outside of the bay area.
    - 2) The immediate area is checked for additional personnel.
    - 3) Personnel in the area are informed of the test.

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- 4) The test is brief in nature, only long enough to confirm that the warning device is properly functioning.

3.06 Equipment Testing.

- A) When testing equipment that is noisy in nature (generators, power fans, power pumps, etc.) hearing protection shall be worn. Such equipment shall not be tested inside the apparatus area but outside of the station.

3.07 General Hearing Protection Practices.

- A) In addition to the above, hearing protection shall be utilized anytime a firefighter is in a noisy environment (operating an engine, hurst pump, etc.).

3.08 Reporting of Hearing/Noise Related Injuries

- A) Firefighters shall report as soon as possible, any noise/hearing related injuries, suspected injuries, or situation which could potentially harm a firefighters hearing. Firefighters shall follow departmental policy when reporting injuries.