

Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training

606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training for members exposed to noise above levels predetermined by state code (8 CCR 5097).

606.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Fresno County Fire Protection District to promote member health and safety by establishing Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training and requiring participation of employees in certain classifications. The Hearing Conservation Program shall include parameters for permissible noise exposure limits, monitoring guidelines, audiometric testing procedures, hearing protection equipment and training, and documentation of the district's efforts (8 CCR 5097).

606.3 PROCEDURES

The following procedures shall comprise the Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training for the Fresno County Fire Protection District (8 CCR 5097). The Training Chief shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate members are enrolled in the training.

606.3.1 NOISE EXPOSURE LIMITS

The Fresno County Fire Protection District shall ensure that each member is provided with protection against the effects of noise exposure any time the sound levels exceed those shown in 8 CCR 5096(b) Permissible Noise Exposure [Table N-1](#) when measured on the A-scale of a standard sound level meter at slow response. Feasible engineering or administrative controls shall be utilized for known sound levels exceeding those of the table (8 CCR 5096).

606.3.2 HEARING PROTECTORS

If control measures fail to reduce sound levels to an acceptable level for the amount of exposure, the District shall provide personal protective equipment to all members subject to the noise exposure and require that it be used. Employees shall have the opportunity to select hearing protectors from a variety provided by the District (8 CCR 5098).

The District shall ensure proper initial fit and correct use of hearing protectors and shall provide training in the use and care of the equipment.

606.3.3 HEARING PROTECTOR ATTENUATION

The Fresno County Fire Protection District shall evaluate hearing protector attenuation for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used. Evaluation methods shall be consistent with those described in 8 CCR 5098 [Appendix E](#). The District will provide more effective hearing protectors where necessary (8 CCR 5098(b)).

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606.3.4 MONITORING

The Fresno County Fire Protection District shall monitor noise levels in the workplace by either area monitoring or personal monitoring that is representative of a member's exposure, to enable the proper selection of hearing protectors (8 CCR 5097(b)).

606.3.5 AUDIOMETRIC TESTING PROGRAM

The Fresno County Fire Protection District shall provide audiometric testing and evaluation to all members who are exposed to noise levels in excess of those permissible pursuant to 8 CCR 5096(b) Permissible Noise Exposure Table N-1. The District shall provide baseline audiometric testing (preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise) within six months of the first noise exposure, and annually thereafter (8 CCR 5097(c)).

Each member's annual audiogram shall be compared to that member's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred (8 CCR 5097(d)).

All audiometric testing shall be conducted by licensed or certified medical professionals in compliance with state testing requirements (8 CCR 5097(c)(3) and 8 CCR 5097(e)).

606.4 TRAINING RECORDS

The Training Chief shall be responsible for maintaining records of all Hearing Conservation Program training provided to members. Records should include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions
- (b) A list of topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions
- (c) The name or other identifier and job title of the members who received the training
- (d) The names, certificate number and qualifications of persons conducting the training
- (e) Copies of baseline and annual audiometric testing and evaluation documents

The Training Chief shall maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.