

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

Policy Statement Commissioner's Statement: Safety and Health Policy

Effective: 7 /1 /2008

Policy # 003

Hauser Lake Fire Protection District believes in the dignity and importance of the individual employee or volunteer and his or her right to derive personal satisfaction from the job. The prevention of occupational injuries and illness is of such a consequence to this belief that it will be given a top priority at all times. We will keep reinforcing the fact that Safety Standards, rules, regulations, SOP's and enforcement policies can, and do, reduce our injuries and deaths. We recognize how much more effective we can be with the right people and attitudes in place, and with the involvement, application and authority to bring about consistent safe practices. It is the intent of the Hauser Lake Fire District Commissioners that the provisions of this manual be used to assist employees in achieving the safest workplace reasonably attainable under the conditions to which employees are or will be exposed.

We have established and require an accident prevention program that emphasizes the integration of Safety and Health measures into each job task so that Safety, Health and job performance become inseparable. This will be accomplished through the cooperative efforts of the Hauser Lake Fire District Commissioners, Hauser Lake Fire Chief, Hauser Lake Deputy Fire Chief, Officers, Safety Officer and the Volunteers/Employees who will seek to obtain the lowest possible number of close calls or incidents.

Safety orientation for new volunteers, timely and appropriate training, a management/safety officer safety committee, an active self-inspection program, proper mechanical safe guards and personal protective equipment will be some of the tools used to reduce work hazards.

By accepting mutual responsibility to operate safely, we will all contribute to the well-being of personnel and subsequently to Hauser Lake Fire Protection District and the Hauser Lake Fire District residents we serve.

The Health and Safety of all members are major concerns of the Commissioners. We believe that continuing research, engineering and development are necessary to increase the levels of Health and Safety in the fire service and we will work with other public and private sector organizations to reach these objectives.

The Commissioners will make every reasonable effort to provide a safe and healthy work environment for the members of their respective fire stations, recognizing the inherent risks that are involved in the delivery of emergency services.

The District will strive to become in compliant with the guidelines as outlined in the NFPA. We recognize the NFPA Standard 1500 is used as the basis for an approach to a Health and Safety Program for a Fire Department.

The Health and Safety Committee (when established) and Officers will be available to assist the Commissioners in attempting to increase the levels of Health and Safety.

The Board of Commissioners believes that:

- The District will have an ongoing program to identify health and safety risks and to provide its members with state of-the-art protection from those risks.
- Emergency operations will be conducted with the ultimate concern for the Health and Safety of those involved.
- District equipment and facilities will be regularly inspected and tested to ensure that they comply with recognized health and safety standards.
- All members will have access to qualified medical personnel and facilities, for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of service related injuries and illnesses.
- Health and exposure records will be maintained for every member, to provide for future access to essential information. The confidentiality of individual records will be respected.
- District facilities shall be Smoke Free, Drug Free, and no alcohol areas.
- A comprehensive approach to Fire Service Health and Safety includes components to deal with stress, substance abuse, smoking cessation, nutrition and related factors that contribute to overall individual wellness.
- Pre-fire planning, training and code enforcement activities should be recognized as essential contributors to Fire Service Health and Safety.
- Promote and encourage the leaders of the District to attend seminars, conferences and classes on any subject deemed beneficial by providing the resources.