

# Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline Accident Prevention Program

Effective Date: 08/01/08

SOG 008

### **8.01 Purpose:**

The purpose of this guideline is to define the Hauser Lake Fire District's Accident Prevention Program.

### **8.02 General Policy:**

The Fire District shall use every means at its disposal to prevent accidents or injuries from occurring. The established position of the Safety Officer is tasked with the continued review of the District's safety programs and training.

When accidents or injuries do occur, a complete investigation shall be conducted at the appropriate level and the results communicated to all members.

### **8.03 Accident and Injury Prevention Program:**

The District's Accident and Injury Prevention Program is comprised of a number of individual policies and operating procedures and provisions required by law. Training is the key to accident and injury prevention as well as strict adherence to applicable procedures. In that regard, all training shall encompass the appropriate safety aspects. Additionally, fire Officers shall be tasked with viewing every operation with an eye toward preventing accidents.

The following specific requirements shall be considered part of this program:

#### **I. Safe Place Standards:**

- A.** The District shall furnish and require the use of appropriate safety devices and safeguards. All fire fighting methods and operations shall be so designed as to promote the safety and health of employee.
- B.** No firefighter or other employee, employer or employer representative shall:
  - 1) Remove, displace, damage, destroy or carry off any safety device, safeguard, notice or warning furnished for the use in any employment or place employment.
  - 2) Interfere in any way with the use of any safety device, method or process adopted for the protection of any employee.

## **II. Employee's Responsibility:**

- A.** Firefighters shall cooperate with the District and other firefighters in efforts to eliminate accidents.
- B.** Each firefighter or other employee shall comply with the provisions of this policy which are applicable to his/her own actions and conduct in the course of his/her employment.
- C.** Firefighters and other employees shall notify the appropriate employer representative of unsafe work practices and of unsafe conditions of equipment, apparatus, or work places.
- D.** Firefighters and other employees shall apply the principles of accident prevention in their work. They shall use all required safety devices, protective equipment and safety practices as provided and/or developed by the District.
- E.** Each firefighter shall take proper care of all personal protective equipment.
- F.** Firefighters shall, if possible, attend required training and/or orientation programs designed to increase their competency in occupational safety and health. If unable to attend such training or orientation firefighters should make it their responsibility to review any information presented at such.
- G.** Firefighters who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs shall not participate in any Fire District operations or functions. This rule does not apply to a person taking prescription drugs as directed by a physician or dentist unless such prescription may affect the firefighter's ability to safely perform their required tasks or functions in which case the firefighter shall notify an appropriate officer as to how long they will be taking such prescription.

**III. Recruit Training:** Recruits are required to complete the District approved Training prior to becoming permanent members. Recruits are also required to complete the Fire District Orientation, which shall include the Safety Orientation Program

**IV. Operator Training:** All operators of fire apparatus are required to be accepted and complete the appropriate training programs and test prior to becoming qualified operators. All members shall complete the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course to be qualified to operate district owned vehicles (refer to SOG General Operations 5.07).

**V. Personal Protective Equipment:** All members are obligated to be familiar with the use, wear and care requirements of personal protective equipment and other safety devices. Items included in this standard are: turn-out gear requirements, seat belt and shoulder harnesses, exhaust emissions protection and hearing protection (refer to SOP General Operations 4.07). Members are also required to comply with

the Personal Protective Equipment Requirements of Airborne & Blood borne Pathogen Infection Control.

- VI. Incident Command Policy:** The Fire District has established a written Incident Command System and uses it on every incident to which it responds. This strong command presence ensures the safety of members by preventing freelancing and inappropriate actions. ICS is also the basis for the review of incidents after the fact. Incident Commanders are encouraged to conduct a Post Incident Analysis for any significant incident. This would include those where accidents or injuries have or could have occurred.
- VII. Special Directives:** The District Fire Chief shall issue special directives to ensure safe operations or to prevent accidents when necessary.
- VIII. Safety Committee:** If a Safety Committee is established the District Safety Officer shall chair the District Safety Committee. The Committee shall be comprised of Safety Officer, Captain or Lieutenant, and Chief or Deputy Chief. The Safety Committee shall meet quarterly. Minutes shall be kept and posted on the station bulletin boards.
- IX. Station Inspections:** Inspections of the fire station shall be made quarterly and records maintained to ensure that stations are reasonably free of recognized hazards. These inspections shall include, but are not limited to tools, apparatus, extinguishers, protective equipment, and life safety equipment.
- X. Accident & Injury Investigations:** When accidents do occur, the Fire District shall take all steps necessary to determine the underlying cause and to develop recommendations to prevent similar accidents or injuries from occurring.
- XI. Response in Private Owned Vehicles:** When any member responds to the station or to the scene of an emergency in his/her private vehicle, each member must strictly adhere to all applicable motor vehicle laws. Privately owned vehicles **are not provided** with the same exemptions that are provided to emergency vehicles. No member of the District will be permitted to violate any motor vehicle laws, including but not limited to:
- Speed limits
  - Going through traffic control devices
  - Passing in an unsafe manner

While it is recognized that timeliness in response to an emergency is important, it is imperative that all drivers understand that their **private vehicles are not emergency vehicles and therefore are not afforded any exemptions or special privileges under the law.** Any driver observed breaking any traffic laws or operating any vehicle in an aggressive or unsafe manner will be subject to disciplinary action including, suspension, and loss of department driving privileges.