



# Scarborough Fire Department

## Scarborough, Maine



### Standard Operating Guidelines

<b>Book:</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Personnel, Policies &amp; Procedures</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>1346 – Hearing Conservation Program</b>
<b>Revision Date:</b>	<b>12/17/2013</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<i>B. Michael Thurlow</i>

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to minimize or reduce occupational hearing loss to all employees and provide hearing protection and training to affected employees.

#### POLICY

The Scarborough Fire Department has implemented a hearing conservation program involving annual noise surveys, employee training, engineering controls and providing hearing protection devices for employees.

#### PROGRAM

- A. Engineering Controls: If it is determined that noise exposure above 90 dB (8 hr. TWA) is present, engineering controls should be evaluated and implemented to reduce the noise exposure before administrative controls are initiated.
- B. Administrative Controls: After engineering controls are evaluated for effectiveness or feasibility, administrative controls should be considered to reduce noise exposure. Administrative controls include restricting exposure time or using personal protective equipment (PPE).
- C. Use of Hearing Protection: All personnel shall properly wear hearing protection while working with any tools or equipment with noise levels above 90db (8 hr. TWA).
- D. Employee Training: At the time of hire all affected employees must attend hearing conservation training. The initial training will be conducted as part of the new hire orientation program when required.

*Sample dB measurements encountered while working for the Scarborough Fire Department*

Static Station	55 dB	Apparatus (running)	80 dB	PlymoVent (running)	82 dB
Chainsaw	110 dB	Exhaust Fan (gasoline)	100 dB	Alarm bell	90 dB
SCBA fill station	85 dB				

*as a result of the noise exposures sampled, it is determined that no employees currently exceed the 90 dB, 8 hour time weighted average*

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Scarborough Fire Department
  - a. Use engineering and administrative controls to limit employee exposure to excessive noise.
  - b. Provide adequate hearing protection for affected employees
  - c. Conduct noise surveys annually or when new equipment is added
  - d. Conduct hearing conservation training for all affected new employees.
- B. Scarborough Fire Department Employees
  - a. Use company provided, approved hearing protection if required.

## **REFERENCES**

- A. Maine Bureau of Labor Compliance Directives