

LOOKOUTS
COMMUNICATION
ESCAPE ROUTES
SAFETY ZONES

COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

SAFETY GRAM

Battalion Commander/Safety
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STATION SAFETY

A large percentage of firefighter injuries and property damage claims occur while participating in routine and non-routine activities at or around the station. Observing proper safety practices and adopting positive safety attitudes can prevent these injuries and claims.

Station Maintenance

Many firefighter injuries can be avoided through complete station maintenance, practices and policies. Efforts should be made to keep apparatus and station floors free from slippery substances and obstructions: water, oil, hydraulic fluid, etc. The floors should be mopped up wherever accumulations appear, especially at the walkways around and between apparatus.

Ground Maintenance

Safety precautions shall be observed when using ground maintenance equipment such as mowers, trimmers, and edgers .

1. The blade guard on power equipment should be serviced and in proper position for the intended use before operation.
2. Safety goggles should be available for all firefighters doing lawn maintenance. Firefighters are to wear these goggles to provide eye protection from rocks, twigs, and other propelled objects when using power equipment.
3. When trimming or pruning trees and bushes, gloves may be necessary to provide adequate hand protection.
4. Earplugs should be worn when operating power equipment, such as edgers, blowers, mowers and trimmers.
5. Do not use defective equipment, nor equipment with safety devices that have been removed or disabled. Have equipment repaired or replaced.
6. Obtain operational and safety training as needed. Read manufacturer manuals and implement recommendations. Identify and read all safety labels on equipment from the manufacturer.

Dispersion level Chart

- Dispersion Range 0-40 is stable air, low fire intensity, less long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 41-70 is moderate, unstable air, increased fire intensity and long range spotting.
- Dispersion Range 70+ is unstable air, high amount of upper lifting, intense fire activity, potential for long range spotting and plume dominated wildfires.

Fireline Handbook Jan.'98

Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first.
Initiate all action based on current and expected fire behavior.

Recognize current weather conditions and obtain forecasts.

Ensure instructions are given and understood.

Obtain current information on status.

Remain in communication with crewmembers, your supervisor, and adjoining forces.

Determine safety zones and escape routes.

Establish lookouts in potentially hazardous situations.

Remain in control at all times.

Stay alert, keep calm, and act decisively.

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STATION SAFETY

Using the following lifting Techniques :

- Use your legs to lift-bend your knees
- Keep your back straight
- Do not twist your body while lifting
- Reposition your feet to avoid twisting
- To lift heavy objects, get your body as close to the object as possible.
- Heavy objects should ideally be stored approximately waist level to prevent unnecessary lifting. Do not attempt to lift or carry more than you can easily handle. When necessary, get help.
- When on scene of a call, use the patient handling pad with straps when possible.
- Try to push items on floor if possible. Pulling objects is more difficult and may result in injuries.

Hearing protections shall be worn.

- When using mowers, trimmers, blowers and edgers.
- During daily equipment check of generators on apparatus, Hurst compressors, pony pumps on brush units, chain saws, K-12 saws, etc.
- For all open cab jump seats.
- Riding non-air conditioned tankers, while responding to emergency calls.
- While pumping water.
- While driving a brush attack unit. Driver will leave windshield closed until unit has arrived on scene.

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Safety committee met at station 42 on 8-29-05, at 15:00 hrs. The committee reviewed 12 liability claims and 3 workman compensation claims.

Liability

- Damaged Hurst hose
- Lost fuel key
- Self Contain Breathing Apparatus mask damaged

- Engine damaged during structure fire.
- Damage to bay door
- TRT boat damaged
- Portable radio battery damaged
- Engine backed in to bay door
- Engine stuck
- Batt 10 stuck
- Engine pulled in to bay door

- Damage to bunker pants
- Worker compensation claims
- Back injury
 - Knee injury
 - Insect bite

ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CAN AND WILL DESTROY FIREFIGHTING GEAR



The Vapor barrier liner and thermal barrier of this structural personal protective equipment (P.P.E.) was exposed to ultra violet light, which left this P.P.E. ineffective. In this condition, this P.P.E. will not protect a firefighter.

- Assure all structural firefighting gear is not stored in sunlight.
- Do not leave firefighting gear on bay floors where sunlight may be exposed to ultra violet light.
- Do not hang dry wet structural P.P.E. in the sunlight,