

Hearing Conservation and Noise Control

917.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain hearing conservation and noise control measures for members exposed to noise above levels determined to be harmful.

917.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Eulesse Fire Department to promote member health and safety by establishing hearing conservation and noise control measures and requiring member participation. 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 department's efforts.

917.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

Members should wear hearing protection in any environment where the noise level is above 85 decibels. Hearing protection includes headsets, ear protectors, or ear plugs.

Members should wear/utilize hearing protection when using or testing power equipment. Hearing protection should also be worn when in close proximity to power equipment that is being used around the station. Examples of dangerously loud equipment include, but are not limited to the following; rescue saws, chain saws, motorized hydraulic rescue tools, generators, air chisels, blowers, grinders, lawn mowers, edgers, apparatus, and any other loud gasoline or pneumatically powered equipment.

If possible, daily check out of power tools and equipment should be conducted outdoors to reduce noise exposure.

Testing of apparatus sirens and horns should not be permitted inside apparatus rooms. They should be tested outdoors with consideration given to the time of day, proximity to hospitals, schools, residences, etc., to minimize annoyances.

Sirens and horns shall not be used for demonstrations to tours, as pranks or horseplay. During tours the need to protect the hearing and not cause undue damage to the public, prohibits the use of sirens and horns during demonstrations. Under no circumstances should the sirens and/or horns be used in a building. The use of these appliances in a confined location or space should be limited to emergency notification alerts or similar circumstances.