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# Hearing Conservation and Noise Control Training

## 606.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain hearing conservation and noise control training for members exposed to noise above levels predetermined by Arizona law and federal regulation (29 CFR 1910.95; AAC § R20-5-602).

## 606.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Blue Ridge Fire District to promote member health and safety by establishing hearing conservation and noise control training 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 district's efforts in compliance with state and federal requirements.

## 606.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

The following procedures shall comprise the hearing conservation and noise control training for the Blue Ridge Fire District. The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate members are enrolled in the training. Captains shall be responsible for ensuring that members attend scheduled testing and training.

### 606.3.1 NOISE EXPOSURE LIMITS

The Blue Ridge Fire District shall ensure that each member is provided with protection against the effects of noise exposure any time the sound levels exceed those shown in 29 CFR 1910.95, App. A.

### 606.3.2 HEARING PROTECTORS

If control measures fail to reduce sound levels to an acceptable level for the amount of exposure, the district shall provide personal protective equipment to all members subject to the noise exposure and require that it be used. Employees shall have the opportunity to select hearing protectors from a variety provided by the district 29 CFR 1910.95, App. B.

The district shall ensure proper initial fit and correct use of hearing protectors and shall provide training in the use and care of the equipment.

### 606.3.3 HEARING PROTECTOR ATTENUATION

The Blue Ridge Fire District shall evaluate hearing protector attenuation for the specific noise environments in which the protector will be used. Evaluation methods shall be consistent with those described in 29 CFR 1910.95, App. B. The district will provide more effective hearing protectors where necessary.

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### 606.3.4 MONITORING

The Blue Ridge Fire District shall monitor noise levels in the workplace by either area monitoring or personal monitoring that is representative of a member's exposure, to enable the proper selection of hearing protectors 29 CFR 1910.95, App. G.

### 606.3.5 AUDIOMETRIC TESTING PROGRAM

The Blue Ridge Fire District shall provide audiometric testing and evaluation to all members who are exposed to noise levels in excess of those permissible pursuant to 29 CFR 1910.95, App. C and App. D. The district shall provide baseline audiometric testing (preceded by at least 14 hours without exposure to workplace noise) within six months of the first noise exposure, and annually thereafter.

Each member's annual audiogram shall be compared to that member's baseline audiogram to determine if the audiogram is valid and if a standard threshold shift has occurred.

All audiometric testing shall be conducted by properly trained audiometric professionals in compliance with state testing requirements.

## **606.4 TRAINING RECORDS**

The Training Coordinator shall be responsible for maintaining records of all hearing conservation program training provided to members. Records should include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The dates of the training sessions.
- (b) A list of topics or a summary of the content of the training sessions.
- (c) The names or other identifiers and job titles of the members who received the training.
- (d) The names, certificate numbers and qualifications of persons conducting the training.
- (e) Copies of baseline and annual audiometric testing and evaluation documents.

The Training Coordinator shall maintain the training records in accordance with established records retention schedules.