

# Hurricane Fire & Rescue

Hurricane, WV

## Operation Guidelines

<b>Subject</b>
<b>Guideline Number</b>
<b>Adopted</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>
<b>Pages</b>

Hearing Protection
800.601
March 1, 2007
April 7, 2007
2

**Purpose:** To provide a guideline for hearing protection when operating in an environment that exceeds 90 dBA, which is the recognized maximum dBA before hearing protection is advised, pursuant to OSHA standards.

**Scope:** All personnel who operate in an environment where dBA exceeds 90.

**Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of all personnel to wear hearing protection in environments that exceed 90 dBA.

**Definition:** dBA is the permissible sound level of decibels in the duration of a designated time period. 90dBA = permissible level for an 8-hour day.

- A. Hearing protection shall be issued to each in member in Operations. A set of hearing protection will be kept on apparatus and fire prevention vehicles, which operate or carry power tools and equipment that exceeds 90 dBA when used.
- B. Hearing protection shall be worn by personnel during all operation of power tools and equipment or when conditions exceed 90 dBA.
  - 1. Operation includes all maintenance or testing procedures during non-emergency functions.
  - 2. Operation includes all emergency functions. (exception - situations where the use of hearing protection equipment would create an additional hazard to the user)
  - 3. Fire alarm testing for extended periods of time.

- C. Hearing protection equipment shall be cleaned following any extended use or as needed.
  - 1. Units shall be cleaned by wiping with a clean cloth and warm soapy water or disinfectant.
  
- D. Hearing protection equipment will be assigned to all apparatus with power tools exceeding the dBA limit and on fire prevention vehicles.
  
- E. Hearing protection is indicated for use with the following power tools and equipment:
  - 1. Chain saws - 93 to 116 dBA
  - 2. Circular saws - 100 to 112 dBA
  - 3. HURST (2 cycle) - 100 dBA
  - 4. Generators - 100 to 105 dBA