



Scarborough Fire Department

Scarborough, Maine



Standard Operating Procedures

Book:	Organization
Chapter:	Personnel, Policies & Procedures
Subject:	1346 – Hearing Conservation Program
Revision Date:	12/17/2013
Approved by:	<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