

Health and Safety Program

Within the Rush Fire District the Rush Fire Department is organized to provide emergency services for the district. It is the intent of the Rush Fire District and the Rush Fire Department, Inc., to place the safety of our firefighters as the top priority and to provide the utmost opportunity for the safety of personnel by developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating a safety and health program.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT

1-1 The Rush Fire District is located within the Town of Rush, County of Monroe and the State of New York. The Rush Fire Department is organized to protect life and property by mitigation of emergency incidents. Services such as fire suppression, emergency medical services, ambulance operation, rescue, property conservation, hazardous materials at the operations level, fire prevention and other activities as deemed to be in the best interests of the Fire Department or the citizens of our community, are provided as permitted by the available resources of the Department. A training program will be developed as a minimum guideline under section two of this program in the following categories (see Section II).

1-1a Interior Structural Firefighters

- A) Entry Level Training
- B) In-Service Training

1-1b Exterior Firefighters

- A) Entry Level Training
- B) In-Service Training

1-1c Fire Officers

1-1d Department Instructors

(see Standard Operating Guidelines table of contents hereafter referred to as SOG# 1.)

1-2 This department is committed to operate, to the best of our ability, within the guidelines established in NFPA 1500 series and NFPA 1000 series national consensus standards and such other standards or guidelines as may be deemed appropriate by the Chief of the Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners.

1-3 A safety committee shall be established, the members of which shall be appointed by the Board of Fire Commissioners, Chief of Department and the President and membership of the Rush Fire Department. Members of the committee shall continue to serve until relieved of committee membership. The committee shall serve in an advisory capacity to conduct research and develop recommendations regarding health and safety issues for review by the Chief of the Department. See SOG #2-3.

This committee shall meet at least once every six months. A Safety and Health Officer (SHO) shall be appointed by the Chief of the Department and shall continue in that position until relieved of those responsibilities. Each officer of the department and other firefighters as identified by the Chief, shall be trained in emergency scene safety. If the Safety and Health Officer is not available at emergencies and the Incident Commander deems that this staff position should be activated, an appropriate fire officer or firefighter shall be assigned to this position for the duration of the incident.

1-4 The Chief of the Department and the Safety and Health Officer shall establish a record collection system for such records as injuries, illnesses, deaths, exposure to toxic products and infectious diseases, membership training, maintenance / inspection of equipment, apparatus, facilities and other areas as may be deemed appropriate. The drivers license of each member shall be witnessed and the registration number and expiration date recorded.

2. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

2-1 The following guidelines are minimum requirements for maintaining active membership in this department. Additional training courses may be developed / implemented by the Chief of Department or his designee.

2-1.1 Interior Structural Firefighters

Newly appointed members shall be trained in accordance with the standards for Firefighters as adopted by the NYS OFP&C. Prior to performing firefighting duties the newly appointed member shall complete the NYS OFP&C "Fire fighting Essentials Course" or equivalent. The member should work under the supervision of an experienced firefighter until the completion of the OFP&C Firefighter II course or it's equivalent. Any curriculum shall contain safety and health education and training as prescribed under current applicable OSHA and or NYS OFP&C requirements.

- Source: NYS OFP&C Essentials course, NYS OFP&C OSHA Safety Training, MCFB Recruit Class

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
◆ General Hazard Recognition	1
◆ Fire Station Safety	2
◆ Response Safety	2
◆ Fire Scene Safety	2
◆ Protective Clothing	3
◆ Self contained Breathing Apparatus	3
◆ Tool and Equipment Safety	2

CPR / Rescue Breathing, Blood Borne Pathogens, TB, HAZMAT Awareness Level shall comply with NFPA national consensus standards, OSHA and / or NYS OFP&C standards as deemed applicable by the Chief of Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners. (The Monroe County Fire Bureau Firefighter Safety Curriculum covers most of these requirements). In addition, other training courses as identified by the Chief of Department may be required of the membership.

Current members shall receive annually, as a minimum, at least a portion of the required curriculum on a quarterly basis, the training in the following areas as required by OSHA:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours</u>
◆ General Hazard Recognition	30 Minutes
◆ Fire Station Safety	30 Minutes
◆ Response Safety	45 Minutes
◆ Fire Scene Safety	1.25 hours
◆ Protective Clothing	1 hour
◆ Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	2 hours
◆ Tool and Equipment Safety	1 hour
◆ Recent Developments in Fire Safety	1 hour

CPR / Rescue Breathing, Blood Borne Pathogens, TB, HAZMAT Awareness Level shall comply with NFPA national consensus standards, OSHA and / or NYS OFP&C standards as deemed applicable by the Chief of Department and the Board of Fire Commissioners. (The Monroe County Fire Bureau Firefighter Safety Curriculum covers most of these requirements). In addition, other training courses as identified by the Chief of Department may be required of the membership.

2-1.2 Exterior Structural Firefighters

All newly appointed members shall be trained to the NFPA standard for Exterior Firefighters, in tasks they will be expected to perform prior to being allowed to perform those tasks. All new firefighters shall be trained to a minimum standard of Firefighter I. Current Exterior Firefighters shall receive annual refresher training.

3. SPECIAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

3-1 Drivers should be trained to comply with NFPA 1000 series national consensus standards, OSHA standards and NYS OFP&C standards for driver /operators, in effect upon date of entry into training. Newly recruited members will not operate district or department emergency vehicles until they have been trained and qualified.

3-2 Department Instructors should complete a course in instructional techniques and be knowledgeable in the subject material assigned to instruct. Individuals having a special knowledge, skill or ability can be utilized as special instructors without completing a course in instructional techniques under the general direction of the department instructor.

3-3 Fire officers will be trained in accordance with the current minimum standards listed in the "Line Officers Duties and Qualifications" which is attached to the by-law's (see SOG # 14 - Appendix).

3-4 Additional membership training should include, but not be limited to such items as the Incident Command system, emergency operation procedures, evacuation from hazardous area procedures, right to know information and special hazards of the community. Members shall also be trained in accordance with 29CFR1910 at the first responder, operations level for hazardous materials incident response.

4. VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

4-1 Drivers/operators shall be physically able to operate the vehicle, and trained as a minimum to the level described in section II of this document. Vehicles shall always be operated in a safe and prudent manner and in accordance with any additional guidelines provided by the Chief of the Department and in compliance with NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law.

4-2 All apparatus shall come to a complete stop at all red lights, stop signs or other traffic control devices requiring a full stop prior to proceeding through the traffic control device with caution. While the driver is in control of the operation of the vehicle, the officer or acting officer is ultimately responsible to ensure the safe operation of the vehicle and to ensure that all passengers are securely positioned on the apparatus.

4-3 All passengers shall be seated and all passenger restraint devices used. All apparatus shall be equipped with back-up alarm devices. When personnel are available, one or more firefighters should be positioned at the rear or side of the apparatus to assist in backing.

4-4 All apparatus shall be examined on a regular basis for routine ,maintenance items as prescribed in the weekly vehicle check sheet for each apparatus. The Chief shall also establish a maintenance program for each vehicle as per the manufacturers recommendation. Required repairs / maintenance shall be accomplished by qualified persons. Unsafe or non-serviceable equipment / vehicles shall be removed from service until repairs are made.

4-5 The Chief of Department shall ensure that testing of equipment components such as pumps, hose, SCBA, extinguishers, etc., is accomplished in accordance with the manufacturers specifications and NFPA standards, following repair or periodic maintenance as required. Testing of ground ladders shall be accomplished in accordance with NFPA 1932 if ladders have been exposed to excessive heat, dropped or overloaded. All ladders shall be visually inspected at least annually.

4-6 As a minimum, all new apparatus shall comply with applicable construction and equipment standards as published by the NFPA. Vehicles may incorporate such other features as recommended by the Chief Officer or the Safety Committee.

5. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

5-1 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be provided for all firefighters. This PPE shall comply with applicable NFPA standards at the time of manufacture and shall include a complete ensemble (coat, pants, boots, hood, gloves, helmet, face shield, eye protection). The PPE shall be worn at all times on the emergency scene unless otherwise instructed by the Incident Commander (IC) or Officer In Charge (OIC). Each member shall be trained in and responsible for routine care and maintenance of PPE, and station uniforms. Members whose PPE requires repair or other maintenance shall notify an officer immediately so that proper action may be taken.

5-2 Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are installed on each required fire district vehicle. Personal Alert Safety System devices (PASS devices) shall be supplied and used with all SCBA. PASS and SCBA shall be maintained and tested in accordance with manufacturer and NFPA / OSHA 29CFR1910.134 standards. All members shall be trained in the visual and operational inspection of this equipment. Maintenance and repairs shall only be performed by qualified individuals.

5-3 Ropes, harnesses and hardware for emergency operations shall be maintained and used in compliance with manufacturers recommendations. Maintenance and periodic inspection and testing of such equipment shall be accomplished on a scheduled basis in accordance with applicable standards.

5-4 The department shall establish and maintain a face, eye and hearing protection program in accordance with 29CFR1910.133 and 29CFR1910.135.

6. TRAINING AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

6-1 All training and Emergency Operations must be conducted in as safe a manner as possible and in such a manner as to recognize and prevent accidents and injuries. The incident commander has overall responsibility for the safety of personnel.

6-2 Live fire training shall be conducted using NFPA 1403 as a guideline.

6-3 A safety officer shall be assigned when, in the opinion of the IC an incident has reached a level that requires additional safety precautions. In the absence of the Safety Officer (SO), the IC shall assign a fire officer or firefighter to fulfill this responsibility. A Safety Officer may have additional responsibility at an incident if there is not sufficient manpower to fill all required roles. As an incident grows larger, the SO's role must become larger (SOG # 2-3).

6-4 A personnel accountability system has been created with each member being issued picture identification tags (SOG # 9-17). This system shall be used at all times.

6-5 Special hazards may require special safety precautions. These special hazards are described along with the precautions to be taken, in SOG #9-16. Guidelines shall be distributed to each member for inclusion in the members training and operations guide book. Development and revision of guidelines is an ongoing process and shall be reviewed and updated at least annually by the Safety Committee and Chief Fire Officer.

6-6 Whenever possible, an ambulance with EMS personnel shall be at the scene of an incident to render assistance to department members or victims as needed. At a minimum this should consist of two (2) qualified EMT's. Advanced Life Support Technicians shall be available at all Hazardous Materials Incidents.

6-7 Each officer shall monitor the safety of their company. The department shall provide adequate personnel to safely conduct operations at an incident. An IC may require an Rapid Intervention Team at an incident. This may be accomplished utilizing Rush firefighters or mutual aid firefighters from another agency.

6-8 Emergency Evacuation (egress) and MAYDAY signals from an emergency scene shall be made known to all members. Upon hearing either signal, all members shall report to a staging area as specified in SOG # 9-18. Officers shall then perform a role call of personnel to ascertain the status of members assigned to the incident.

These signals shall also be made known to mutual companies summoned to an incident in the Rush Fire District (9-18.1). Conversely, Rush Fire Personnel assisting in another district shall be made aware of the procedures in use in that district for emergency egress of personnel from an incident scene.

7. FACILITY SAFETY

7-1 Fire stations shall comply with all applicable codes and regulations and be inspected at least annually for code violations. A safety evaluation, using an approved checklist, shall be conducted by an fire officer at least quarterly for items that affect personnel safety.

7-2 Apparatus rooms shall be equipped with an automatic vehicle exhaust system. Smoke detectors and heat detectors have been installed in each facility. They shall be inspected and tested for performance at least annually.

8. MEDICAL

8-1 All new members shall receive a complete physical in accordance with NFPA 1582 prior to entering in to active training or any other departmental activity. All members shall receive an annual physical such as may be prescribed under NFPA 1582 or by the Board of Fire Commissioners.

8-2 Members shall be offered Hepatitis B immunizations at no cost to the member.

9. MEMBER ASSISTANCE

9-1 Should the performance or actions of a volunteer firefighter compromise their safety or the safety of others firefighters or the general public while performing official duties, such conduct shall be referred by the Chief Officer to the Safety Committee for review. Recommendations regarding the individual shall be made to the Chief.

9-1.1 Under no circumstances shall a department member act in the official capacity of a firefighter or fire officer when the consumption of alcohol or other substances may affect their ability to perform all duties in a safe and professional manner.

9-2. If at some time the Fire Department becomes the primary employer for firefighters, a member assistance program shall be established. Such program will include a referral listing for assistance and guidelines for referral including the confidentiality of records of referral. The Fire District shall be the sole source for employee assistance.

9-3. A critical incident stress program shall be developed and available resources for implementation identified.