
Section: 2.3 AWAIR Safety Program

Effective Date: 02/01/09

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Approved by: J. Ehret Fire Chief

SCOPE

This guideline applies to all South Metro Fire Department personnel.

PURPOSE

To reduce injuries and provide a system for accident prevention

A Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program
(AWAIR)

It is the policy of South Metro Fire to ensure a healthy workplace for all of its employees. For this reason, we are implementing the following safety and health program. Supervisors as well as employees are all responsible for implementing this program. Our goal is to reduce the number of accidents and injuries and that requires cooperation in all safety and health matters between employees, their fellow workers and management. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain an excellent safety record.

All employees of South Metro Fire are responsible for cooperating with all aspects of this safety and health program, including compliance with all SOG's and regulations for practicing safety while on the job.

In order to implement this program, we have established a safety committee consisting of department members as well as a supervisor. Each shift will be represented on the committee.

The Safety Committee will meet bi-monthly initially and this schedule may be adjusted as needed. The committee will discuss safety items of importance to the department as reported to them by its members as well as items discovered during regular department inspections and walk-throughs which will be conducted by the committee. All employees will be advised of who their representative on the committee is so that they will have an opportunity to have information passed along through the proper channels.

The Safety Committee will also be responsible for implementing safety related training to the entire department, including, but not limited to Right to Know, Community Hazards, Wellness, etc.

All information discussed and discovered by the Safety Committee will be relayed to the department through regular e-mails and postings. The postings will include safety related items and findings as well as this document and will be available in each station in the duty crew area or posting board. Any changes in the membership of the safety committee will also be immediately relayed.

All new hires will be trained in the area of workplace safety and where to find current information on department safety issues.

The Safety Committee will participate in the investigation of workplace accidents and any near-miss events in the department. The written report or Supervisors report of injury or accident will note corrective or preventative action taken. Training or retraining will be conducted as needed as a result of the investigation.

Safety is a very important part of the work environment here at South Metro Fire. Any willful violation of safety rules will be treated with the same disciplinary actions as our other policies and guidelines as provided in our department personnel book or union contract. This document and department safety policies will be reviewed on an annual basis and will be updated as needed any other time a problem is identified with it.

The employees of South Metro Fire are its most important asset. Our job is a dangerous one and has very large risks associated with it. We are serious about safety and health issues and want to provide the safest possible environment to work in.