

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Policies, Procedures, and Guidelines

SUBJECT: Safety

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Policy

1. It is the policy of East County Fire & Rescue to provide the highest level of safety and health for all members. The prevention and reduction of accidents, injuries and occupational illnesses are goals of East County Fire & Rescue and shall be primary consideration at all times. This concern for safety and health applies to all member of the District but also others who may be involved in Fire Department activities.
2. East County Fire & Rescue shall make every reasonable effort to provide a safe and healthy work environment, recognizing the dangers involved in the types of service we deliver. All members shall operate with heightened concern for safety and health. Appropriate training, supervision, procedures, program support and review shall be provided to achieve specific safety and health objectives in all functions and activities.

Safety Strategy

1. East County Fire & Rescue shall operate a Safety Program to eliminate accidents, medical and hazardous material exposures, as well as damage to equipment and facilities. The basic safety strategy shall be:
 - a. Reduce the likelihood of sustaining accidents and injury by maintaining a work force that is physically and mentally fit.
 - b. Provide high-quality equipment and protective clothing.
 - c. Conduct regular safety inspections of worksites and equipment.
 - d. Keep all members informed of the status of safety programs and issues.
 - e. Collect and analyze accident, injury and exposure information.
 - f. Formulate specific action plans to improve safety.

Safety Committee

1. The District Safety Committee shall:

- a. Provide policy guidance pertaining to health, fitness and safety issues.
 - b. Identify trends and department-wide roles and responsibilities.
 - c. Develop, implement, review, and revise safety procedures and programs such as the “Near Miss” Program.
 - d. Act as a fact-finding and review agency with the authority to cause immediate corrective action when any hazardous condition or practice is detected.
 - e. Advise the District Training Officer if training needs are identified through their review or management of Safety Programs.
2. The Safety Committee shall consist of at least four Members:
 - a. One Officer (preferably a Chief Officer)
 - b. Two Members who are combat Firefighters
 - c. One Member of the Board of Commissioners
 - d. Additional members: EMT, EST and/or Admin/Support personnel may be present when required.
 3. This Committee shall meet regularly, keep minutes and report to the Board at Regular meetings of that body.
 4. All Members are empowered by this Board to stop unsafe practices utilizing proper procedures and channels, and shall report such actions or incidents without fear of censure or reprisal.

Safety Officer

1. The Safety Officer shall be responsible for managing the District’s safety program. The Safety Officer duties shall include:
 - a. Provide for safety at incident scenes.
 - b. Produce or provide safety posters and bulletins.
 - c. Provide input on equipment and protective clothing safety.
 - d. Manage the safety inspection program.
 - e. Ensure that all accidents, injuries, and exposures are investigated.
 - f. Maintain accident, injury, and exposure records.
 - g. Provide for safety education of all department members.