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**Purpose:**

Firefighting is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. To reduce the risk of injury to the members of this department, it will be necessary for everyone to know the hazards involved with firefighting, and to maintain situational awareness at all times. The fire department will provide as safe of a working environment as practical, and the members shall do their utmost to prevent injuries through safe actions and practices.

**Procedure:**

1. All members are expected to practice safety in the discharge of their duties. No member of the fire department shall attempt to perform a task where he or she feels his or her safety is unreasonably jeopardized. No one shall be penalized for failure to perform the task for this reason.
2. No member shall operate tools or equipment unless he or she has, or is receiving proper instruction on the equipment, nor shall anyone attempt any task for which he or she has not been properly trained.
3. Whenever a member observes an unsafe act, condition or practice, he/she should act promptly to remedy the unsafe act and notify an officer immediately. This officer shall initiate the appropriate action to remedy the hazard.
4. Safety glasses/goggles or other approved safety eyewear, are to be worn whenever using any hand tools, power tools, or pneumatic tools.
5. When backing up an apparatus at the scene, station, or anywhere else, it is the responsibility of the officer or acting officer to see that a member is in the rear of the apparatus to assist the driver.
6. Upon the return of an apparatus to the fire station, no one is to disembark from the apparatus until the officer or acting officer has given permission to do so, or the engine has stopped. This also applies to fire scenes.
7. No one shall enter a fire building or other Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health environment without backup firefighter(s). There shall also be a Rapid Intervention Team as described in the R.I.T. Standard Operating Procedure.
8. No one shall attack a fire, or enter the danger zone of a hazardous materials incident without having proper protective equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus and without having received the proper training.

9. Persons are forbidden to ride on the tailboards of apparatus except during parades, when the speed is no faster than walking speed.
10. Nomex hoods shall be used on all incidents, except for field, woods or grass fires.
11. The “Buddy” system shall be used at all incidents when operating in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health situation, unless the member is trying to affect a rescue of a human life.
12. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be worn when prudence dictates.