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Code Refresher: SPS 330 Fire Department Health and Safety

This article provides an overview of some of the important requirements of SPS 330 Fire Department Health and Safety; refer to the code for additional requirements. SPS 330 along with SPS 332 Public Employee Safety and Health contains minimum requirements for an occupational safety and health program for public sector fire department employees involved in fire department operations. In addition, SPS 332 contains additional safety and health requirements for all public employees. Both codes can be found on our website at: [DSPS.wi.gov/industry-services/Fire Prevention](http://DSPS.wi.gov/industry-services/Fire%20Prevention).

All fire departments are required (SPS 330.05) to establish an **Occupational Safety and Health Committee** which advises the chief on issues related to the program. The committee shall include representatives of fire department management and fire fighters or representatives of fire fighter organizations or other persons. The committee must hold meetings at least biannually and shall keep minutes of all meetings.

SPS 330.06 Records: requires that the fire department maintain a training record for each fire fighter indicating dates, subjects covered and certifications achieved. In addition, the department shall maintain a permanent record of all reported accidents, injuries, illnesses and deaths that are or may be job related.

SPS 330.07 Training and education: every fire department shall establish and maintain a training and education program to prevent occupational accidents, deaths, injuries and illnesses. Training should prepare a firefighter to safely perform their duties, identify hazards and adapt to new technology or procedures. Additionally firefighters shall be trained in the incident command system and established fire ground operation procedures. This training shall be at least monthly, shall be based on each fire department's suggested operating guidelines (SOPs) which are maintained in written form and which address all emergency scene operations.

SPS 330.08 Employment Standards set the minimum requirements for any new **firefighter** engaged in structural firefighting. The requirements must meet one of the following:

1. The Wisconsin technical college system board;
2. An approved state apprenticeship program;
3. An in-house training program approved by the Wisconsin Technical college system board; or
4. NFPA 1001.

All new fire fighters shall be permitted the opportunity to obtain the training specified within 24 months of the date of his or her appointment to the fire department. A new firefighter may NOT participate in structural firefighting activities which require the individual to enter or be in close proximity to the building, enclosed structure, vehicle or vessel until that individual has completed the training specified.

Every new **pumper operator** or new **aerial operator** shall meet the minimum requirements specified by one of the following:

1. The Wisconsin technical college system board;
2. An approved state apprenticeship program;
3. An in-house training program approved by the Wisconsin Technical college system board; or
4. NFPA 1002.

New pumper operators and new aerial operators shall obtain the training specified in this subsection within 12 months of the date of appointment.

A new **fire officer**, after appointment, shall be provided with the opportunity to take the basic officer training program within 12 months of appointment. The training program shall meet the minimum requirements of one of the following:

1. The Wisconsin technical college system board;
2. An approved state apprenticeship program;
3. An in-house training program approved by the Wisconsin Technical college system board; or
4. NFPA 1021.

SPS 330.09 Vehicles: Every fire department shall give substantial consideration to the health and safety of firefighters in relation to the specification, design, construction, acquisition, operation, maintenance, inspection and repair of all vehicles and equipment. Including the following: Inspect every fire vehicle at least weekly and within 24 hours after any use or repair to identify and correct unsafe conditions; Establish a preventive maintenance program; Take any fire vehicle found to be unsafe out of service until it is repaired and inspect that vehicle before placing it back in service; Test fire pumps on apparatus as specified in NFPA 1911; Inspect and service test all aerial devices as specified in NFPA 1914.

SPS 330.12 Self-contained breathing apparatus. Every fire department shall:

Adopt and maintain a respiratory protection program that satisfies the requirements of s. 29 CFR 1910.134 as adopted by reference in SPS 332.

Assure that all sources of compressed gaseous breathing air, such as compressors, used for filling self-contained breathing apparatus are tested to assure their compliance with the requirements of CGA standard G-7.1, with a minimum air quality of Grade D and a water vapor level of less than 25 ppm.

Inspect, use and maintain all self-contained breathing apparatus as recommended by the manufacturer.

The face piece seal capability of each member qualified to use self-contained breathing apparatus shall be verified by qualitative fit testing on an annual basis and any time that new types of self-contained breathing apparatus are issued.

A new member shall be tested before being permitted to use self-contained breathing apparatus in a hazardous atmosphere.

Only members with a properly fitting face piece shall be permitted to function in a hazardous atmosphere with self-contained breathing apparatus.

A firefighter may not wear a beard or facial hair that comes in contact with a face piece seal if the fire fighter's duties require him or her to use a self-contained breathing apparatus. If a firefighter wears eyeglasses, the fire fighter shall use frames that do not pass through the seal area of the face piece.

SPS 330.14 Emergency operations. Incident Safety requirements: Every fire department shall provide sufficient personnel to safely conduct emergency scene operations and limit such operations to those that can be safely performed by the personnel available at the scene. If inexperienced fire fighters are working at an emergency operation, more experienced officers or members should provide direct supervision. If any firefighter is operating at an emergency operation and his or her assignment places him or her in potential contact with motor vehicle traffic, that firefighter shall wear a helmet or alternative protective headgear and a vest or coat with fluorescent retroreflective material.

For additional information or questions please contact your district Fire Prevention Coordinator.

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