

Firefighter Physical Examinations

A- 064

Date amended: 12-21-2006

- 1) The Union Vale Fire District (UVFD) believes it is important that all active firefighters be in sufficient physical health to safely perform all duties and to return home or to work in at least the same good condition that they left home and/or work prior to the emergency, training or fire company function. In an effort to prevent the converse from happening, it is the policy of the UVFD to provide at no cost to the ACTIVE FIREFIGHTER a physical examination by our SUPPLIER that will meet or exceed the OSHA/PESH requirements.
- 2) Only physical examinations by the UVFD's SUPPLIER will be accepted by the UVFD
- 3) The UVFD's SUPPLIER is TEK Services of Hopewell Junction, NY. Also referred to as Medical Examiner in this policy.
- 4) For the purpose of these physical examinations, there will be five categories of ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS that will receive the no-cost physical.
 - a. ACTIVE INTERIOR FIREFIGHTER (uses SCBA)
 - b. ACTIVE EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTER (will not use SCBA) – If for any reason an EXTERIOR FIREFIGHTER wants to use a SCBA in the future it will be required that they first have the INTERIOR FIREFIGHTER physical examination.
 - c. DRIVER
 - d. FIRE POLICE
 - e. EMT/RESCUE
 - f. INACTIVE MEMBERS/SOCIAL MEMBERS/INACTIVE LIFE MEMBERS will not be provided no-cost physicals.
- 5) An active firefighter has 21 days to make their physical appointment with the approved vendor upon receipt of a letter from the Physicals Coordinator. If you fail to schedule this appointment within the 21 days, the Physicals Coordinator will notify the Board of Fire commissioners. The active firefighter status will revert from active fire fighter to social member. All district issued gear and equipment will be collected. Once a completed physical and drug screen has been completed successfully and notification by our approved vendor of such, then that member will be returned to active fire fighter status.
- 6) New members must have physicals and drug screen prior to being considered ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS.
- 7) Firefighters who miss their appointments must reimburse the UVFD any incurred expense from the UVFD's SUPPLIER prior to a subsequent completed physical being considered by the BOARD as in compliance with item 5, unless the charges are waived by the board for an acceptable reason.
- 8) Failure or refusal of an ACTIVE FIREFIGHTER to get the physical examination in the specified time-period (21 days) will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. A date for possible expulsion will be set at the next meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.

- 9) Frequency of Physical Examinations:
- i) Active Firefighters
 - Up to 29 years old every 3 years
 - 30-39 years old every 2 years
 - Over 40 years old every year
 - ii) Social Members
 - No requirement but recommend individual have regular checkups via own physician.
- 10) Frequency of Respirator User Clearance for Active Interior Firefighters is every year.
- 11) All new members or members returning from a leave longer than 1 year are required to take and pass a drug screen at their physical. All active members on January 1st will be put in the pool to be chosen (20% as determined by the vendor) to take a drug screen during their physical. If it is not the member's year to have a physical then they will receive a letter informing them they have 24 hours to go to the vendor's offices for a drug screen.

LIGHT DUTY POLICY

- Can **not** operate district equipment
- Can **not** respond to any emergency under any circumstances. If present at an emergency for any reason, the member will be considered not active and will be subject to the same rules and regulations as the general public. The member will not be covered by the District's insurance.
- Can attend instructional type details as long as there is no physical activity required, expected, or offered.
- Can attend meetings
- Can be at the Fire House during non-emergency periods or remain in quarters to assist auxiliary or other non-physical or non-stressful operations.
- Needs to have the District's Medical Officer submit written permission to be given to the Chief in order for the member to return to active (non-light duty) status.

SUPPLEMENT A: FIRE DISTRICT MEDICAL GUIDELINES

Any volunteer firefighter who has an obvious physical injury or disability (for example but not limited to are major surgery, medical leave, broken bones or major sprains) shall automatically be placed on medical leave upon the occurrence of said problem. That person or representative thereof shall notify an officer of the Department, the Officer who received the report shall in turn notify the Chief of the Department who in turn shall make a written report to the Board of Fire Commissioners.

- a) A person may return to full duty only upon the receipt and acceptance thereof by the Board of Fire Commissioners of a written statement by the Fire District's Medical Examiner stating that such person is fully able to resume the full duties of an active member.
- b) A person may return to light duty only upon the receipt and acceptance thereof by the Board of Fire Commissioner of a written statement by the Fire District's Medical Examiner.