Bethel Township Fire Department

GENERAL ORDER: 303	**SECTION:** PPE/Uniform
SUBJECT: Hearing Conservation	**AFFECTS:** All Personnel
ADOPTED: 05/01/2016	**SUPERSEDES:** All Previous
REVISED:	

PURPOSE:

To establish a guideline for the Bethel Township Fire Department to comply with the OSHA standards concerning occupational exposure to noise. This policy is to assist the Bethel Township Fire Department in protecting employees' hearing and to effectively manage or eliminate hazardous noise exposure.

GENERAL ORDER:

Until such time as engineering and/or administrative controls reduce the amount of noise exposure to or below allowed limits, appropriate personal hearing protective devices are to be made available and issued to noise-exposed employees. It is recognized that the use of these devices is considered a temporary solution to the problem of exposure until feasible controls are provided.

As with all safety equipment, the wearing of hearing protection is strongly recommended (but not limited to) in the following areas:

- While working in or near an operating air compressor
- All training activities and morning vehicle checks that generate noise from their operations
- Various daily activities
  - Examples of such activities (but not limited to) power tools such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, weed eaters, snow blowers, drills, chisels, all saws, pump operations, generators and fans.

- Fire/EMS Operations
  - Examples of such activities (but not limited to) operation of saws, fans, generators and hydraulic rescue tool.

- When in the presence of an activated, audible fire alarm until such time as alarm can be silenced.
- Reduce exposure to siren/air horn noise by keeping vehicle windows closed.

Realizing that it is impossible to list every instance where hearing protection is necessary, it is the Bethel Township Fire Department's position that employees should exercise good judgment and take a very conservative approach to hearing protection. In other words, <u>WHEN IN DOUBT, WEAR HEARING PROTECTION.</u>