

NFPA® 1582

**Standard on
Comprehensive Occupational
Medical Program for
Fire Departments**

2018



IMPORTANT NOTICES AND DISCLAIMERS CONCERNING NFPA® STANDARDS

NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY CONCERNING THE USE OF NFPA STANDARDS





NFPA® codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides (“NFPA Standards”), of which the document contained herein is one, are developed through a consensus standards development process approved by the American National Standards Institute. This process brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve consensus on fire and other safety issues. While the NFPA administers the process and establishes rules to promote fairness in the development of consensus, it does not independently test, evaluate, or verify the accuracy of any information or the soundness of any judgments contained in NFPA Standards.

The NFPA disclaims liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential or compensatory, directly or indirectly resulting from the publication, use of, or reliance on NFPA Standards. The NFPA also makes no guaranty or warranty as to the accuracy or completeness of any information published herein.

In issuing and making NFPA Standards available, the NFPA is not undertaking to render professional or other services for or on behalf of any person or entity. Nor is the NFPA undertaking to perform any duty owed by any person or entity to someone else. Anyone using this document should rely on his or her own independent judgment or, as appropriate, seek the advice of a competent professional in determining the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances.

The NFPA has no power, nor does it undertake, to police or enforce compliance with the contents of NFPA Standards. Nor does the NFPA list, certify, test, or inspect products, designs, or installations for compliance with this document. Any certification or other statement of compliance with the requirements of this document shall not be attributable to the NFPA and is solely the responsibility of the certifier or maker of the statement.

REVISION SYMBOLS IDENTIFYING CHANGES FROM THE PREVIOUS EDITION

Text revisions are shaded. A  before a section number indicates that words within that section were deleted and a  to the left of a table or figure number indicates a revision to an existing table or figure. When a chapter was heavily revised, the entire chapter is marked throughout with the  symbol. Where one or more sections were deleted, a • is placed between the remaining sections. Chapters, annexes, sections, figures, and tables that are new are indicated with an .

Note that these indicators are a guide. Rearrangement of sections may not be captured in the markup, but users can view complete revision details in the First and Second Draft Reports located in the archived revision information section of each code at www.nfpa.org/docinfo. Any subsequent changes from the NFPA Technical Meeting, Tentative Interim Amendments, and Errata are also located there.



ALERT: THIS STANDARD HAS BEEN MODIFIED BY A TIA OR ERRATA

Users of NFPA codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides (“NFPA Standards”) should be aware that NFPA Standards may be amended from time to time through the issuance of a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) or corrected by Errata. An official NFPA Standard at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document together with any TIAs and Errata then in effect.

To determine whether an NFPA Standard has been amended through the issuance of TIAs or corrected by Errata, go to www.nfpa.org/docinfo to choose from the list of NFPA Standards or use the search feature to select the NFPA Standard number (e.g., NFPA 13). The document information page provides up-to-date document-specific information as well as postings of all existing TIAs and Errata. It also includes the option to register for an “Alert” feature to receive an automatic email notification when new updates and other information are posted regarding the document.

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND DISCLAIMERS CONCERNING NFPA® STANDARDS

ADDITIONAL NOTICES AND DISCLAIMERS

Updating of NFPA Standards

Users of NFPA codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides (“NFPA Standards”) should be aware that these documents may be superseded at any time by the issuance of new editions or may be amended from time to time through the issuance of Tentative Interim Amendments or corrected by Errata. An official NFPA Standard at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document together with any Tentative Interim Amendments and any Errata then in effect. In order to determine whether a given document is the current edition and whether it has been amended through the issuance of Tentative Interim Amendments or corrected through the issuance of Errata, consult appropriate NFPA publications such as the National Fire Codes® Subscription Service, visit the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org, or contact the NFPA at the address listed below.

Interpretations of NFPA Standards

A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with Section 6 of the Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards shall not be considered the official position of NFPA or any of its Committees and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a Formal Interpretation.

Patents

The NFPA does not take any position with respect to the validity of any patent rights referenced in, related to, or asserted in connection with an NFPA Standard. The users of NFPA Standards bear the sole responsibility for determining the validity of any such patent rights, as well as the risk of infringement of such rights, and the NFPA disclaims liability for the infringement of any patent resulting from the use of or reliance on NFPA Standards.

NFPA adheres to the policy of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) regarding the inclusion of patents in American National Standards (“the ANSI Patent Policy”), and hereby gives the following notice pursuant to that policy:

NOTICE: The user’s attention is called to the possibility that compliance with an NFPA Standard may require use of an invention covered by patent rights. NFPA takes no position as to the validity of any such patent rights or as to whether such patent rights constitute or include essential patent claims under the ANSI Patent Policy. If, in connection with the ANSI Patent Policy, a patent holder has filed a statement of willingness to grant licenses under these rights on reasonable and nondiscriminatory terms and conditions to applicants desiring to obtain such a license, copies of such filed statements can be obtained, on request, from NFPA. For further information, contact the NFPA at the address listed below.

Law and Regulations

Users of NFPA Standards should consult applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. NFPA does not, by the publication of its codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and these documents may not be construed as doing so.

Copyrights

NFPA Standards are copyrighted. They are made available for a wide variety of both public and private uses. These include both use, by reference, in laws and regulations, and use in private self-regulation, standardization, and the promotion of safe practices and methods. By making these documents available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, the NFPA does not waive any rights in copyright to these documents.

Use of NFPA Standards for regulatory purposes should be accomplished through adoption by reference. The term “adoption by reference” means the citing of title, edition, and publishing information only. Any deletions, additions, and changes desired by the adopting authority should be noted separately in the adopting instrument. In order to assist NFPA in following the uses made of its documents, adopting authorities are requested to notify the NFPA (Attention: Secretary, Standards Council) in writing of such use. For technical assistance and questions concerning adoption of NFPA Standards, contact NFPA at the address below.

For Further Information

All questions or other communications relating to NFPA Standards and all requests for information on NFPA procedures governing its codes and standards development process, including information on the procedures for requesting Formal Interpretations, for proposing Tentative Interim Amendments, and for proposing revisions to NFPA standards during regular revision cycles, should be sent to NFPA headquarters, addressed to the attention of the Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101; email: stds_admin@nfpa.org.

For more information about NFPA, visit the NFPA website at www.nfpa.org. All NFPA codes and standards can be viewed at no cost at www.nfpa.org/docinfo.

Copyright © 2017 National Fire Protection Association®. All Rights Reserved.

NFPA® 1582

Standard on

Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments

2018 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1582, *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health. It was issued by the Standards Council on August 1, 2017, with an effective date of August 21, 2017, and supersedes all previous editions.

This document has been amended by one or more Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs) and/or Errata. See “Codes & Standards” at www.nfpa.org for more information.

This edition of NFPA 1582 was approved as an American National Standard on August 21, 2017.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1582

The initial mandatory medical requirements for candidates for fire fighter were in the 1974 edition of NFPA 1001, *Standard on Professional Qualifications for Fire Fighter*. When the first edition of NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, was issued in 1987, it required all members engaged in emergency operation to be examined by a physician at least annually and suggested the medical examination be developed and administered by the fire department physician in recognition of the specific requirements of the members’ activities.

In the late 1980s, members of the Technical Committee on Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications (responsible for NFPA 1001) and members of the Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health (responsible for NFPA 1500) formed a working group to develop a new standard on medical requirements for fire fighters.

The first edition of NFPA 1582 was titled *Standard on Medical Requirements for Fire Fighters* and was issued in 1992 under the responsibility of the Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health Committee. A subsequent edition was issued in 1997. The 2000 edition was titled *Standard on Medical Requirements for Fire Fighters and Information for Fire Department Physicians*, in recognition of the increasing amount of guidance being provided in the document to persons serving as fire department physicians.

The title of the 2003 edition was changed to *Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments* to reflect a comprehensive occupational medical program. The document included references to the IAFC-IAFF Fire Service Joint Labor-Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative, and to NFPA 1583, *Standard on Health-Related Fitness Programs for Fire Fighters*. These two documents outline a health-related fitness program that is medically validated against NFPA 1582. The 2003 edition delineated between medical issues of a candidate seeking to become a fire fighter, and those of incumbents currently performing the tasks of fire fighting. The intent with incumbents with a medical condition is to rehabilitate them and only restrict them from performing those essential job tasks where their injury or illness would affect the safety of themselves or others on their crew.

In the 2007 edition, new requirements were added to both the chapter on medical evaluation for candidates and the chapter on specific evaluation of medical conditions in incumbents to allow persons with diabetes to enter the fire service or continue performing essential job tasks associated with fire fighting if they meet defined criteria. All the medical conditions that govern whether a person can become a fire fighter and the specific medical conditions of incumbents that affect their ability to perform certain essential job tasks were reviewed and updated, if appropriate, based on current medical research and knowledge.

For the 2013 edition, the committee, with the assistance of several task groups and subject matter experts in specialty areas with regard to medical conditions, updated many of the medical requirements to reflect current practices. Some of the areas that were addressed were that of diabetes, metabolic syndrome, prosthetic adjuncts, hearing aids, and cochlear implants, as well as pregnancy and reproductive system concerns. Also developed for the 2013 edition was a new annex designed to assist the end user with the subject of pregnancy. The committee, with the assistance of the International Association of Fire Fighters, provided an updated Annex C, which contains the protocols for the evaluation of fitness for members. The committee also updated some of the medical requirements relating to hypertension, anticoagulants, TB testing, and screening for cancer.

For the 2018 edition, the committee, with the assistance of several task groups and subject matter experts in specialty areas with regard to medical conditions, has updated many of the medical requirements to reflect current practices. Some of the areas that were addressed were lung function, spinal injuries/conditions, and seizure disorders. A new section was added to the annual fitness evaluation regarding lung function performance. The committee updated all of the annex material in order to provide the best guidance and references for physicians and fire departments.

Technical Committee on Fire Service Occupational Safety and Health

Randy J. Krause, *Chair*
Port of Seattle Fire Department, WA [E]

Murrey E. Loflin, *Nonvoting Secretary*
National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health, WV [RT]

Lawrence T. Bennett, University of Cincinnati, OH [SE]

David T. Bernzweig, Columbus (OH) Division of Fire, OH [L]
Rep. Columbus Firefighters Union

Sandy Bogucki, Yale University Emergency Medicine, CT [SE]

James E. Brinkley, International Association of Fire Fighters, DC [L]
Rep. International Association of Fire Fighters

Dennis R. Childress, Orange County Fire Authority, CA [U]
Rep. California State Firefighters Association

Thomas J. Cuff, Jr., Firemens Association of the State of New York, NY [U]

David W. Dodson, Response Solutions LLC, CO [SE]
Rep. Fire Department Safety Officers Association

Christopher A. Garrett, Owasso Fire Department, OK [M]
Rep. International Fire Service Training Association

Stanley Haimes, UCF College of Medicine, FL [SE]

Todd A. Harms, Phoenix Fire Department, AZ [E]

Scott D. Kerwood, Hutto Fire Rescue, TX [E]
Rep. International Association of Fire Chiefs

J. Roger Lackore, Smeal Fire Apparatus, WI [M]
Rep. Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association

Tamara DiAnda Lopes, Reno Fire Department, NV [U]

Joseph Mchugh, Fire Department City of New York, NY [U]
Rep. Fire Department City of New York

Steven M. Moffatt, Public Safety Medical, IN [SE]

Paul J. Napoli, Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York, NY [U]

Rep. Association of Fire Districts/State of New York

Robert D. Neamy, Gardnerville, NV [M]

Rep. National Incident Management System Consortium

Christopher W. Norris, Westhampton Fire Department, MA [E]

Charles J. Popp III, Boston Fire Department, MA [U]

David J. Prezant, Fire Department City of New York, NY [E]
Rep. Fire Department City of New York

Steven A. Rabine, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc., PA [I]

Gregory Reynar, Los Angeles City Fire Department, CA [U]

Daniel G. Samo, Northwestern Medical Group, IL [SE]

Andrew G. Schwartz, Lion Group, Inc., OH [M]

Denise L. Smith, Skidmore College, NY [SE]

Donald F. Stewart, Medocracy Inc./Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, VA [E]

Philip C. Stittleburg, La Farge Fire Department, WI [U]
Rep. National Volunteer Fire Council

Susan Tamme, Tampa Fire Rescue Department, FL [L]
Rep. International Association of Women in Fire & Emergency Services

Fred C. Terryn, U.S. Department of the Air Force, FL [U]

Teresa Wann, Santa Ana College, CA [SE]

Kim D. Zagaris, State of California, CA [E]

Alternates

Robert Albanese, Fire Department City of New York, NY [U]
(Alt. to Joseph Mchugh)

Kurt Becker, Clayton, Missouri Fire Department, MO [L]
(Alt. to James E. Brinkley)

Brett R. Bowman, City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department, VA [E]
(Alt. to Scott D. Kerwood)

Wesley D. Chestnut, Spartan Motors, Inc., MI [M]
(Alt. to J. Roger Lackore)

Bradd K. Clark, Ocala Fire Rescue, FL [M]
(Alt. to Christopher A. Garrett)

Steven D. Corrado, UL LLC, NC [RT]
(Voting Alt.)

Fabrice Czarnecki, University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center, MD [SE]
(Alt. to Daniel G. Samo)

Kenneth Desmond, Bath, ME [U]
(Alt. to Philip C. Stittleburg)

Hayley Fudge, Lion Group, Inc., OH [M]
(Alt. to Andrew G. Schwartz)

Randall W. Hanifen, University of Cincinnati, OH [SE]
(Alt. to Lawrence T. Bennett)

Jerome E. Ozog, Volunteer Firemen's Insurance Services, Inc., PA [I]
(Alt. to Steven A. Rabine)

Paul Parrish, Austin Fire Wellness, TX [SE]
(Alt. to Sandy Bogucki)

Jack E. Reall, Columbus (OH) Division of Fire, OH [L]
(Alt. to David T. Bernzweig)

Phillip C. Vorlander, Waunakee, WI [M]
(Alt. to Robert D. Neamy)

Nonvoting**William R. Hamilton**, U.S. Department of Labor, DC [E]**Andrew Levinson**, U.S. Department of Labor, DC [E]
Rep. Occupational Safety & Health Administration**Ken Holland**, NFPA Staff Liaison

This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on occupational safety and health in the working environment of the fire service. The Committee shall also have responsibility for documents related to medical requirements for fire fighters, and the professional qualifications for Fire Department Safety Officer.

Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	1582- 6	7.2 Member Education Regarding Occupational Medical Evaluation Program.	1582- 18
1.1 Scope.	1582- 6	7.3 Timing of the Annual Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members.	1582- 18
1.2 Purpose.	1582- 6	7.4 Components of the Annual Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members.	1582- 18
1.3 Implementation.	1582- 6	7.5 Medical History.	1582- 18
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	1582- 6	7.6 Physical Examination.	1582- 19
2.1 General.	1582- 6	7.7 Ancillary Tests.	1582- 19
2.2 NFPA Publications.	1582- 6	Chapter 8 Annual Occupational Fitness Evaluation of Members	1582- 21
2.3 Other Publications.	1582- 7	8.1 Weight and Body Composition.	1582- 21
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.	1582- 7	8.2 Annual Fitness Evaluation.	1582- 21
Chapter 3 Definitions	1582- 7	Chapter 9 Essential Job Tasks — Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members	1582- 22
3.1 General.	1582- 7	9.1 Essential Job Tasks.	1582- 22
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.	1582- 7	9.2 Special Teams.	1582- 22
3.3 General Definitions.	1582- 7	9.3 Fire Department Physician Roles.	1582- 22
Chapter 4 Roles and Responsibilities	1582- 8	9.4 Cardiovascular Disorders.	1582- 22
4.1 Fire Department Responsibilities.	1582- 8	9.5 Vascular Disorders.	1582- 25
4.2 Fire Department Physician Responsibilities. ..	1582- 9	9.6 Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders.	1582- 26
4.3 Candidate and Member Responsibilities.	1582- 9	9.7 Lung, Chest Wall, and Respiratory Disorders.	1582- 28
4.4 Confidentiality of Medical Information.	1582- 9	9.8 Infectious Diseases.	1582- 32
Chapter 5 Essential Job Tasks	1582- 9	9.9 Spine Disorders.	1582- 33
5.1 Essential Job Tasks and Descriptions.	1582- 9	9.10 Orthopedic Disorders.	1582- 34
5.2 Essential Job Tasks for Specialized Teams.	1582- 10	9.11 Disorders Involving the Gastrointestinal Tract and Abdominal Viscera.	1582- 36
Chapter 6 Medical Evaluations of Candidates	1582- 10	9.12 Medical Conditions Involving Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Neck, or Throat.	1582- 36
6.1 Medical Evaluation.	1582- 10	9.13 Neurologic Disorders.	1582- 37
6.2 Medical Conditions Affecting Ability to Safely Perform Essential Job Tasks.	1582- 10	9.14 Psychiatric and Psychologic Disorders.	1582- 39
6.3 Head and Neck.	1582- 10	9.15 Substance Abuse.	1582- 40
6.4 Eyes and Vision.	1582- 11	9.16 Medications.	1582- 40
6.5 Ears and Hearing.	1582- 11	9.17 Tumors — Malignant or Benign.	1582- 41
6.6 Dental.	1582- 11	9.18 Pregnancy and Reproductive Health.	1582- 43
6.7 Nose, Oropharynx, Trachea, Esophagus, and Larynx.	1582- 11	Annex A Explanatory Material	1582- 43
6.8 Lungs and Chest Wall.	1582- 11	Annex B Guide for Fire Department Administrators	1582- 67
6.9 Aerobic Capacity.	1582- 12	Annex C Protocols for Evaluation of Fitness of Members	1582- 69
6.10 Heart and Vascular System.	1582- 12	Annex D Pregnancy Issues	1582- 83
6.11 Abdominal Organs and Gastrointestinal System.	1582- 13	Annex E Sample Physician Evaluation Form for Fire Fighters with Diabetes	1582- 87
6.12 Metabolic Syndrome.	1582- 13	Annex F Informational References	1582- 94
6.13 Reproductive System.	1582- 13	Index	1582- 97
6.14 Urinary System.	1582- 13		
6.15 Spine and Axial Skeleton.	1582- 13		
6.16 Extremities.	1582- 14		
6.17 Neurological Disorders.	1582- 14		
6.18 Skin.	1582- 15		
6.19 Blood and Blood-Forming Organs.	1582- 15		
6.20 Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders.	1582- 15		
6.21 Systemic Diseases and Miscellaneous Conditions.	1582- 17		
6.22 Tumors and Malignant Diseases.	1582- 17		
6.23 Psychiatric Conditions.	1582- 17		
6.24 Chemicals, Drugs, and Medications.	1582- 17		
Chapter 7 Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members	1582- 18		
7.1 General.	1582- 18		

NFPA 1582

Standard on

Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments

2018 Edition

IMPORTANT NOTE: This NFPA document is made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers appear in all publications containing this document and may be found under the heading “Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning NFPA Standards.” They can also be viewed at www.nfpa.org/disclaimers or obtained on request from NFPA.

UPDATES, ALERTS, AND FUTURE EDITIONS: New editions of NFPA codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides (i.e., NFPA Standards) are released on scheduled revision cycles. This edition may be superseded by a later one, or it may be amended outside of its scheduled revision cycle through the issuance of Tentative Interim Amendments (TIAs). An official NFPA Standard at any point in time consists of the current edition of the document, together with all TIAs and Errata in effect. To verify that this document is the current edition or to determine if it has been amended by TIAs or Errata, please consult the National Fire Codes® Subscription Service or the “List of NFPA Codes & Standards” at www.nfpa.org/docinfo. In addition to TIAs and Errata, the document information pages also include the option to sign up for alerts for individual documents and to be involved in the development of the next edition.

NOTICE: An asterisk (*) following the number or letter designating a paragraph indicates that explanatory material on the paragraph can be found in Annex A.

A reference in brackets [] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex F. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex F.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1 Scope. This standard contains descriptive requirements for a comprehensive occupational medical program for fire departments.

- ▲ **1.1.1*** The medical requirements in this standard are applicable to fire department candidates and members whose job descriptions as defined by the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) are outlined in NFPA 1001; NFPA 1002; NFPA 1003; NFPA 1006; NFPA 1021; and NFPA 1051.

1.1.2 This standard provides information and guidance for physicians and other health care providers responsible for fire department occupational medical programs.

- ▲ **1.1.3** These requirements are applicable to public, governmental, military, private, and industrial fire department organi-

zations providing rescue, fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation, special operations, and other emergency services.

1.1.4 This standard shall not apply to industrial fire brigades that also can be known as emergency brigades, emergency response teams, fire teams, plant emergency organizations, or mine emergency response teams.

1.2 Purpose. The purpose of this standard is to outline an occupational medical program that, when implemented in a fire department, will reduce the risk and burden of fire service occupational morbidity and mortality while improving the health, and thus the safety and effectiveness, of fire fighters operating to protect civilian life and property.

1.2.1 Accordingly, the standard specifies the following information:

- (1) Minimal medical requirements for candidates as delineated in Chapter 6
- (2) Occupational medical and fitness evaluations for members as delineated in Chapters 7 and 8
- (3) Information regarding fire department activities and essential job tasks that assist the department physician in providing proper medical support for members
- (4) Methods and types of data that must be collected to sustain comprehensive occupational medical programs for fire departments

1.2.2* The implementation of the medical requirements outlined in this standard ensures that candidates and current members are medically capable of performing their required duties and will reduce the risk of occupational injuries and illnesses.

1.2.3 Nothing herein is intended to restrict any jurisdiction from exceeding these minimum requirements.

1.3 Implementation.

1.3.1 For candidates, the medical requirements of this standard shall be implemented when this standard is adopted by an AHJ on an effective date specified by the AHJ.

1.3.2* When this standard is adopted by a jurisdiction, date(s) shall be set for members to achieve compliance by establishing a phase-in schedule for compliance with specific requirements, if needed.

- ▲ **1.3.3*** The fire department risk management plan as described in NFPA 1500 shall include implementation of a comprehensive occupational medical program that is compliant with this standard.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.

NFPA 1001, *Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2013 edition.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1003, *Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1006, *Standard for Technical Rescuer Professional Qualifications*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1021, *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*, 2014 edition.

NFPA 1051, *Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications*, 2016 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program*, 2018 edition.

NFPA 1561, *Standard on Emergency Services Incident Management System*, 2008 edition.

NFPA 1581, *Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1583, *Standard on Health-Related Fitness Programs for Fire Department Members*, 2015 edition.

NFPA 1584, *Standard on the Rehabilitation Process for Members During Emergency Operations and Training Exercises*, 2015 edition.

2.3 Other Publications.

2.3.1 ANSI Publications. American National Standards Institute, Inc., 25 West 43rd Street, 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

ANSI Z24.5, *Audiometric Device Testing*, 1951.

2.3.2 CDC Publications. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road, Atlanta, GA 30333.

“Measles, Mumps, and Rubella — Vaccine Use and Strategies for Elimination of Measles, Rubella, and Congenital Rubella Syndrome and Control of Mumps: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, May 19, 1998, 47 (No. RR-8): 1-57.

“Poliomyelitis Prevention in the United States: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP),” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 49(No. RR-5):1-22, May 19, 2000.

2.3.3 U.S. Government Publications. U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.95, “Occupational noise exposure,” 1996.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.120, “Hazardous waste operations and emergency response,” 2002.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.134, “Respiratory protection,” 1998.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.1020, “Access to employee exposure and medical records,” 1996.

Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1910.1030, “Bloodborne pathogens,” 2001.

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, *Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure* (JNC 7), 2004

2.3.4 Other Publications.

International Council of Ophthalmology, “International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale,” San Francisco, CA, October 2002, <http://www.icoph.org/standards/pdrdetail.html>.

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 11th edition, Merriam-Webster, Inc., Springfield, MA, 2003.

2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.

NFPA 1002, *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*, 2017 edition.

NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program*, 2018 edition.

Chapter 3 Definitions

3.1 General. The definitions contained in this chapter shall apply to the terms used in this standard. Where terms are not defined in this chapter or within another chapter, they shall be defined using their ordinarily accepted meanings within the context in which they are used. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th edition, shall be the source for the ordinarily accepted meaning.

3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.

3.2.1* Approved. Acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.

3.2.2* Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). An organization, office, or individual responsible for enforcing the requirements of a code or standard, or for approving equipment, materials, an installation, or a procedure.

3.2.3 Shall. Indicates a mandatory requirement.

3.2.4 Should. Indicates a recommendation or that which is advised but not required.

3.3 General Definitions.

3.3.1 Candidate. A person who has submitted an application to become a member of the fire department. [1500, 2018]

3.3.2 Category A Medical Condition. See 3.3.14.1.

3.3.3 Category B Medical Condition. See 3.3.14.2.

3.3.4 Emergency Medical Services. The provision of treatment, such as first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, basic life support, advanced life support, and other pre-hospital procedures including ambulance transportation to patients. [1500, 2018]

3.3.5 Essential Job Task. Task or assigned duty that is critical to successful performance of the job. (See Chapter 5 and Section 9.1.)

3.3.6 Evaluation. See 3.3.15, Medical Evaluation.

N 3.3.7* Fire Department. An organization providing rescue, fire suppression, and related activities, including any public, governmental, private, industrial, or military organization engaging in this type of activity. [1002, 2017]

3.3.8 Fire Department Physician. A licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy who has been designated by the fire department to provide professional expertise in the areas of occupational safety and health as they relate to emergency services.

3.3.9 Functional Capacity Evaluation. An assessment of the correlation between that individual's capabilities and the essential job tasks.

3.3.10 Health and Fitness Coordinator. A person who, under the supervision of the fire department physician, has been designated by the department to coordinate and be responsible for the health and fitness programs of the department.

3.3.11 Health and Safety Committee. A representative group of individuals who serve along with the fire department physician and health and fitness coordinator, and is chaired by the fire department health and safety officer, who oversee the implementation of the fire department occupational safety and health program.

3.3.12 Health and Safety Officer. The member of the fire department assigned and authorized by the fire chief as the manager of the safety and health program. [1500, 2018]

3.3.13 Infection Control Program. The fire department's formal policy and implementation of procedures relating to the control of infectious and communicable disease hazards where employees, patients, or the general public could be exposed to blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials in the fire department work environment. [1500, 2018]

3.3.14 Medical Condition Classifications.

3.3.14.1 Category A Medical Condition. A medical condition that would preclude a person from performing as a member in a training or emergency operational environment by presenting a significant risk to the safety and health of the person or others.

3.3.14.2 Category B Medical Condition. A medical condition that, based on its severity or degree, could preclude a person from performing as a member in a training or emergency operational environment by presenting a significant risk to the safety and health of the person or others.

3.3.15 Medical Evaluation. The analysis of information for the purpose of making a determination of medical certification. Medical evaluation includes a medical examination.

3.3.16 Medical Examination. An examination performed or directed by the fire department physician.

3.3.17 Medically Certified. A determination by the fire department physician that the candidate or current member meets the medical requirements of this standard.

3.3.18* Member. A person involved in performing the duties and responsibilities of a fire department, under the auspices of the organization. [1500, 2018]

3.3.19 Occupational Safety and Health Program. An occupation specific program, implemented to reduce the risks associated with the occupation, that outlines the components of a program and the roles and responsibilities of the fire department and its members.

Chapter 4 Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Fire Department Responsibilities.

4.1.1 The fire department shall establish a comprehensive occupational medical program that includes medical evaluations for candidates and members. (See Annex B.)

4.1.2 The medical evaluations and any additional medical tests ordered by the fire department physician shall be provided at no cost to the members.

4.1.2.1* This obligation shall not extend to medical tests beyond the basic medical evaluation for candidates.

Δ **4.1.3*** The fire department shall have an officially designated physician who shall be responsible for guiding, directing, and advising the members with regard to their health, fitness, and suitability for duty as required by NFPA 1500.

4.1.4* The fire department shall ensure that the fire department physician is a licensed doctor of medicine or osteopathy who has completed residency training in an accredited medical training program and/or is American Boards of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) board certified or international equivalent.

4.1.5 The fire department shall provide the fire department physician with a fire service overview, current job descriptions, and the essential job tasks required for all fire department positions and ranks.

Δ **4.1.6** The fire department shall provide the fire department physician with the department's organizational statement that outlines types and levels of services provided by the department, in accordance with NFPA 1500.

4.1.7* The types and levels of services provided by the fire department shall dictate for candidates and members the essential job tasks that pertain to its members and shall therefore be correlated to the medical requirements outlined in this standard.

4.1.8 For the purpose of conducting medical evaluations, the fire department shall assist the fire department physician to understand the physiological and psychological demands placed on members as well as the environmental conditions under which they must perform and the personal protective equipment (PPE) they must wear during various types of emergency operations.

4.1.9 The fire department shall ensure member access to evaluation by medical specialists, medical and/or surgical treatment, rehabilitation, and any other intervention prescribed by a medical provider, in consultation with the fire department physician, following an injury or illness resulting from a member's participation in fire department functions.

4.1.10 The fire department shall require that the fire department health and safety officer and the health and fitness coordinator maintain a liaison relationship with the fire department physician to ensure that all aspects of the comprehensive occupational medical program are actively engaged.

4.1.11 The fire department shall ensure employee privacy and confidentiality regarding medical conditions identified during the medical evaluation except as required by law.

4.1.12 Where possible, the fire department shall provide alternate duty position for members when the fire department physician recommends temporary work restrictions.

4.1.13 Medical Record Keeping.

4.1.13.1* The fire department comprehensive occupational medical program shall include collection and maintenance of a confidential medical and health information system for members.

4.1.13.2 All medical record keeping shall comply with the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1020, "Access to employee exposure and medical records," and other applicable regulations and laws.

4.1.14 The provisions of 4.1.13 shall apply to all health and medical records regarding individual members and to all methods of communicating or transferring the information contained in these records, including written, oral, electronic, and any other means of communication.

4.2 Fire Department Physician Responsibilities.

4.2.1 The fire department physician shall fulfill the following responsibilities:

- (1) Understand the physiological, psychological, and environmental demands placed on fire fighters
- (2) Evaluate fire department candidates and members to identify medical conditions that could affect their ability to safely respond to and participate in emergency operations
- (3) Utilize the essential job task descriptions supplied by the fire department to determine a candidate's or a member's medical certification
- (4) Identify and report the presence of Category A or disqualifying Category B medical conditions if present in candidates
- (5) Inform the fire chief or his/her designee whether or not the candidate or current member is medically certified to safely perform the essential job tasks
- (6) Report the results of the medical evaluation to the candidate or current member, including any medical condition(s) identified during the medical evaluation, and the recommendation as to whether the candidate or current member is medically certified to safely perform the essential job tasks
- (7) Forward copies of any abnormal results along with patient instructions regarding primary care follow-up to candidates or current members who were instructed to seek (as appropriate) medical follow-up to address any medical conditions, or lab abnormalities, identified during the medical evaluation
- (8) Review results of the annual occupational fitness evaluation as described in Chapter 8
- (9) Provide or arrange for a prescriptive rehabilitation and/or fitness program when indicated to aid a member's recovery from illness or injury and enhance his/her ability to safely perform essential job tasks
- (10) Participate in injury prevention and health promotion programs for fire fighters

4.2.2 When medical evaluations are conducted by a physician or medical provider other than the fire department physician, the evaluation shall be reviewed and approved by the fire department physician.

4.2.3 The fire department physician shall review individual medical evaluations and aggregate data from member evaluations in order to detect evidence of occupational exposure(s) or clusters of occupational disease.

4.2.4 The fire department physician shall be a member of the Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Committee chaired by the health and safety officer as required by NFPA 1500.

4.2.5 The fire department physician shall provide medical supervision for the fire department fitness, return-to-duty rehabilitation, and physical conditioning programs as required by NFPA 1583.

4.2.6* The fire department physician shall ensure adequate on-scene medical support at the incident scene rehabilitation sector for members during emergency operations as required by NFPA 1500; NFPA 1561; and NFPA 1584.

4.2.7 The fire department physician shall provide supervision for the fire department infection control program as required by NFPA 1581.

4.3 Candidate and Member Responsibilities. Each candidate or member shall adhere to the following requirements:

- (1) Cooperate, participate, and comply with the medical evaluation process
- (2) Provide complete and accurate information to the fire department physician and other authorized medical care provider(s)
- (3) Report any occupational exposure such as exposure to hazardous materials or toxic substances and exposure to infectious or contagious diseases
- (4) Report to the fire department physician any medical condition that could interfere with the ability of the individual to safely perform essential job tasks, such as illness or injury, use of prescription or nonprescription drugs, and pregnancy

4.4 Confidentiality of Medical Information.

4.4.1* Specific information concerning medical diagnosis shall be released by the fire department physician only with written permission from the candidate or member, and/or as required by law.

4.4.2 No fire department personnel, other than the fire department physician or appropriate medical staff, shall have access to another member's medical records without the express written consent of that member.

Chapter 5 Essential Job Tasks

5.1 Essential Job Tasks and Descriptions.

5.1.1 The fire department shall evaluate the following 14 essential job tasks against the types and levels of emergency services provided to the local community by the fire department, the types of structures and occupancies in the community, and the configuration of the fire department to determine which tasks apply to their department members and candidates:

- (1)* While wearing personal protective ensembles and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), performing fire-fighting tasks (e.g., hoseline operations, extensive crawling, lifting and carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, forcible entry), rescue operations, and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions, including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged time periods
- (2) Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve-type positive-pressure facepiece or HEPA filter mask, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads

- (3) Exposure to toxic fumes, irritants, particulates, biological (infectious) and nonbiological hazards, and heated gases, despite the use of personal protective ensembles and SCBA
- (4) Depending on the local jurisdiction, climbing six or more flights of stairs while wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, weighing at least 50 lb (22.6 kg) or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lb (9 to 18 kg)
- (5) Wearing a fire protective ensemble, including SCBA, that is encapsulating and insulated, which will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C)
- (6) While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns to adults weighing over 200 lb (90 kg) to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility
- (7) While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, advancing water-filled hoselines up to 2 ½ in. (65 mm) in diameter from fire apparatus to occupancy [approximately 150 ft (50 m)], which can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles
- (8) While wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA, climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces that might be wet or icy, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines or other hazards
- (9) Unpredictable emergency requirements for prolonged periods of extreme physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration
- (10) Operating fire apparatus or other vehicles in an emergency mode with emergency lights and sirens
- (11) Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments, including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces, that is further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens, and other distractions
- (12) Ability to communicate (give and comprehend verbal orders) while wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hoselines and/or fixed protection systems (sprinklers)
- (13) Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members
- (14) Working in shifts, including during nighttime, that can extend beyond 12 hours

5.1.2 The fire department shall provide the fire department physician with the list of essential job tasks, as developed per 5.1.1, to be used in the medical evaluation of members and candidates.

5.1.3 The fire department physician shall consider the physical, physiological, intellectual, and psychological demands of the occupation when evaluating the candidate's or member's ability to perform the essential job tasks.

• **5.2 Essential Job Tasks for Specialized Teams.**

- ▲ **5.2.1** If the fire department operates specialized teams such as hazardous materials units, self-contained underwater breathing

apparatus (SCUBA) teams, technical rescue teams, emergency medical services (EMS) teams, or units supporting tactical law enforcement operations, the fire department shall identify for each team it operates the additional essential job tasks and specialized personal protective equipment (PPE) not specified in 5.1.1(1) through 5.1.1(13) that would apply to the members of that team.

5.2.2 The fire department shall also provide the fire department physician with the list of additional essential job tasks and specialized PPE specific to each specialized team.

5.2.3 When performing the medical evaluation of members of a specialized team, the fire department physician shall also consider the following:

- (1) Additional medical and/or physical requirements that are related to the job tasks being performed by the team that are not enumerated in this standard
- (2) The impact on members of having to wear or utilize specialized PPE that can increase weight, environmental isolation, sensory deprivation, and/or dehydration potential above levels experienced with standard fire suppression PPE

Chapter 6 Medical Evaluations of Candidates

6.1 Medical Evaluation. A medical evaluation of a candidate shall be conducted prior to the candidate being placed in training programs or fire department emergency response activities.

6.1.1* The medical evaluation of a candidate shall include a medical history, examination, and any laboratory tests required to detect physical or medical condition(s) that could adversely affect his/her ability to safely perform the essential job tasks outlined in 5.1.1.

6.1.2* This standard shall provide specific requirements for candidates based on medical conditions that can affect a candidate's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks of a fire fighter.

6.2 Medical Conditions Affecting Ability to Safely Perform Essential Job Tasks.

6.2.1 Medical conditions that can affect a candidate's ability to safely perform essential job tasks shall be designated either Category A or Category B.

6.2.2 Candidates with Category A medical conditions shall not be certified as meeting the medical requirements of this standard.

6.2.3 Candidates with Category B medical conditions shall be certified as meeting the medical requirements of this standard only if they can perform the essential job tasks without posing a significant safety and health risk to themselves, members, or the public.

6.3 Head and Neck.

6.3.1 Head.

6.3.1.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Defect of skull preventing helmet use or leaving underlying brain unprotected from trauma
- (2) Any skull or facial deformity that would not allow for a successful fit test for respirators used by that department

- (3) Any head condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.3.1.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Deformities of the skull such as depressions or exostoses
- (2)* Deformities of the skull associated with evidence of disease of the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves
- (3)* Loss or congenital absence of the bony substance of the skull

6.3.2 Neck.

6.3.2.1 Category A medical conditions shall include any neck condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks.

6.3.2.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Thoracic outlet syndrome
- (2)* Congenital cysts, chronic draining fistulas, or similar lesions
- (3)* Contraction of neck muscles

6.4 Eyes and Vision.

6.4.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Far visual acuity worse than 20/40 binocular, corrected with contact lenses or spectacles, or far visual acuity worse than 20/100 binocular for wearers of hard contacts or spectacles, uncorrected
- (2)* Color perception — monochromatic vision resulting in inability to use imaging devices such as thermal imaging cameras
- (3)* Monocular vision
- (4) Any eye condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.4.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Diseases of the eye such as retinal detachment, progressive retinopathy, or optic neuritis
- (2)* Ophthalmological procedures such as radial keratotomy, Lasik procedure, or repair of retinal detachment
- (3) Peripheral vision in the horizontal meridian of less than 110 degrees in the better eye or any condition that significantly affects peripheral vision in both eyes
- (4) Amblyopia

6.5* Ears and Hearing.

Δ 6.5.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Chronic vertigo or impaired balance as demonstrated by the inability to tandem gait walk
- (2) On audiometric testing, without the aid of a hearing assistance device, average hearing loss in the unaided better ear worse than 40 decibels (dB) at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz when the audiometric device is calibrated to ANSI Z24.5, *Audiometric Device Testing*
- (3) Any ear condition or hearing impairment that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.5.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Unequal hearing loss
- (2) Average uncorrected hearing deficit at the test frequencies 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz worse than 40 dB in either ear
- (3) Atresia, stenosis, or tumor of the auditory canal
- (4)* External otitis, recurrent
- (5)* Agenesis or traumatic deformity of the auricle
- (6)* Mastoiditis or surgical deformity of the mastoid
- (7)* Ménière's disease, labyrinthitis, or tinnitus
- (8)* Otitis media, recurrent
- (9) Surgical procedures to correct or improve hearing or other conditions of the ear

6.6 Dental.

6.6.1 Category A medical conditions shall include any dental condition that results in inability to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks.

6.6.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Diseases of the jaws or associated tissues
- (2)* Orthodontic appliances
- (3)* Oral tissues, extensive loss
- (4)* Relationship between the mandible and maxilla that interferes with satisfactory postorthodontic replacement or ability to use protective equipment

6.7 Nose, Oropharynx, Trachea, Esophagus, and Larynx.

6.7.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Tracheostomy
- (2)* Aphonia
- (3) Any nasal, oropharyngeal, tracheal, esophageal, or laryngeal condition that results in inability to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks, including fit testing for respirators used by the fire department and SCBA for fire and hazmat operations

6.7.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Congenital or acquired deformity
- (2)* Allergic rhinitis
- (3) Epistaxis, recurrent
- (4)* Sinusitis, recurrent
- (5)* Dysphonia
- (6) Anosmia
- (7) Tracheal stenosis
- (8) Nasopharyngeal polyposis
- (9)* Obstructive apneas (e.g., sleep apnea) if unresponsive to treatment

6.8 Lungs and Chest Wall.

Δ 6.8.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Active hemoptysis
- (2) Current empyema
- (3) Pulmonary hypertension
- (4) Active tuberculosis
- (5)* A forced vital capacity (FVC) or forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁) less than 70 percent predicted even independent of disease

- (6)* Obstructive lung diseases (e.g., emphysema, chronic bronchitis, asthma) with an absolute FEV₁/FVC less than 0.70 and with either the FEV₁ below normal or both the FEV₁ and the FVC below normal (i.e., less than 0.80) (see references in Section F.2)
- (7)* Hypoxemia oxygen saturation less than 90 percent at rest or exercise desaturation by 4 percent or to less than 90 percent exercise testing indicated when resting oxygen is less than 94 percent but greater than 90 percent
- (8)* Asthma, including reactive airways disease requiring bronchodilator or corticosteroid therapy at least once in the previous 2 years, unless the candidate can meet the requirement in 6.8.1.1
- (9) Any pulmonary condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks
- (10) Lung transplant
- (11) Obstructive sleep apnea with excessive daytime sleepiness, unless all the following criteria are met:
 - (1) Successful treatment
 - (2) Documentation of compliance with CPAP, for sleep study with an oral appliance, or of sleep study after surgery
 - (3) No excessive daytime sleepiness with treatment

6.8.1.1* A candidate who has been diagnosed with asthma or has in the past required bronchodilator, corticosteroid, or anti-inflammatory therapy (e.g., a leukotriene receptor antagonist, such as montelukast) shall be evaluated by a pulmonologist or other expert in asthmatic lung diseases, such as an allergist, to determine if the candidate meets all the following:

- (1) The applicant denies bronchospasm during exertion, temperature/humidity extremes, or irritant exposures.
- (2) The applicant denies the use of bronchodilator rescue medications during exertion, temperature/humidity extremes, or irritant exposures.
- (3) The applicant's asthma has not required systemic corticosteroids, emergency room treatment, or hospital admission in the past 2 years.
- (4) Allergen avoidance or desensitization has been successful.
- (5) Spirometry demonstrates adequate reserve (FVC and FEV₁ greater than or equal to 90 percent) and no bronchodilator response measured off all bronchodilators on the day of testing.
- (6) Normal or negative response to provocative challenge testing [e.g., cold air, exercise (12 METs), methacholine (PC₂₀ greater than 8 is considered normal because response at dose greater than 8 mg/ml might not be clinically significant), histamine, mannitol, or hypertonic saline] or negative response to exercise challenge.

6.8.1.1.1 Challenge testing shall be performed off all anti-inflammatory medications (e.g., inhaled or oral steroids, leukotriene receptor antagonists) for 4 weeks preceding the test, off all antihistamines (e.g., oral allergy medications) for 1 week, and off all bronchodilators on the day of testing.

Δ 6.8.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Pulmonary resection surgery, chest wall surgery, and pneumothorax
- (2) Pleural effusion
- (3)* Fibrothorax, chest wall deformity, and diaphragm abnormalities

- (4)* Interstitial lung diseases
- (5)* Pulmonary vascular diseases or history of pulmonary embolism
- (6)* Bronchiectasis, if abnormal pulmonary function or recurrent infections
- (7) Infectious diseases of the lung or pleural space
- (8) Cystic fibrosis
- (9) Central or obstructive apnea (e.g., sleep apnea)

6.9 Aerobic Capacity.

6.9.1* Category A medical conditions shall include an aerobic capacity less than 12 metabolic equivalents (METs) (12 METs = 42 mL O₂/kg/min).

6.10 Heart and Vascular System.

6.10.1 Heart.

6.10.1.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Clinically significant coronary artery disease, including history of myocardial infarction, angina pectoris, coronary artery bypass surgery, coronary angioplasty, and similar procedures
- (2)* Cardiomyopathy or congestive heart failure, including signs or symptoms of compromised left or right ventricular function or rhythm, including dyspnea, S3 gallop, peripheral edema, enlarged ventricle, abnormal ejection fraction, and/or inability to increase cardiac output with exercise
- (3)* Acute pericarditis, endocarditis, or myocarditis
- (4)* Syncope, recurrent
- (5)* Any medical condition requiring an automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator, unless the condition no longer requires an automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator, or a medical history of ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation due to ischemic or valvular heart disease, or cardiomyopathy
- (6) Third-degree atrioventricular block
- (7)* Cardiac pacemaker, if the applicant is pacemaker-dependent
- (8) Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, including idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis
- (9) Any cardiac condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks
- (10) Heart transplant

Δ 6.10.1.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Valvular lesions of the heart, including prosthetic valves
- (2)* Recurrent supraventricular or atrial tachycardia, flutter, or fibrillation
- (3)* Left bundle branch block
- (4) Second-degree atrioventricular block in the absence of structural heart disease
- (5) Sinus pause of more than 3 seconds
- (6)* Ventricular arrhythmia (history or presence of multifocal PVCs or nonsustained ventricular tachycardia on resting EKG with or without symptoms; history or presence of sustained ventricular tachycardia with or without symptoms)
- (7)* Cardiac hypertrophy
- (8)* History of a congenital abnormality
- (9)* Chronic pericarditis, endocarditis, or myocarditis

- (10) Brugada syndrome
- (11) Long QT syndrome
- (12) Arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy
- (13) Cardiac pacemaker, if the applicant is not pacemaker-dependent
- (14) Coronary artery disease, if not covered by 6.10.1.1

6.10.2 Vascular System.

6.10.2.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Hypertension
 - (a)* Uncontrolled or poorly controlled hypertension
 - (b)* Hypertension with evidence of end organ damage
- (2)* Thoracic or abdominal aortic aneurysm
- (3) Carotid artery stenosis or obstruction resulting in greater than or equal to 50 percent reduction in blood flow
- (4)* Peripheral vascular disease resulting in symptomatic claudication
- (5) Any other vascular condition that results in inability to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.10.2.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Vasospastic phenomena such as Raynaud's phenomenon
- (2)* Thrombophlebitis, thrombosis, or varicosities
- (3)* Chronic lymphedema due to lymphadenopathy or venous valvular incompetency
- (4)* Congenital or acquired lesions of the aorta or major vessels
- (5)* Circulatory instability as indicated by orthostatic hypotension, persistent tachycardia, and peripheral vasomotor disturbances
- (6) History of surgical repair of aneurysm of the heart or major vessel

6.11 Abdominal Organs and Gastrointestinal System.

6.11.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Presence of uncorrected inguinal/femoral hernia, if symptomatic
- (2) Any gastrointestinal condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.11.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Cholecystitis
- (2)* Gastritis
- (3)* GI bleeding
- (4)* Acute hepatitis
- (5) Hernia including the following:
 - (a) Uncorrected umbilical, ventral, or incisional hernia if significant risk exists for infection or strangulation
 - (b) Significant symptomatic hiatal hernia if associated with asthma, recurrent pneumonia, chronic pain, or chronic ulcers
 - (c)* Surgically corrected hernia more than 3 months after surgical correction
- (6)* Inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome
- (7)* Intestinal obstruction
- (8)* Pancreatitis

- (9) Diverticulitis
- (10)* History of gastrointestinal surgery
- (11)* Peptic or duodenal ulcer or Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
- (12)* Asplenia
- (13)* Cirrhosis, hepatic or biliary
- (14)* Chronic active hepatitis

6.12 Metabolic Syndrome.

6.12.1* Category A medical conditions shall include metabolic syndrome with aerobic capacity less than 12 METs.

6.12.2 Category B medical conditions shall include metabolic syndrome with aerobic capacity 12 METs or greater.

6.13 Reproductive System. See B.1.2.1.

6.13.1 Category A medical conditions shall include any genital condition that results in inability to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks.

6.13.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Pregnancy, for its duration
- (2) Dysmenorrhea
- (3) Endometriosis, ovarian cysts, or other gynecologic conditions
- (4) Testicular or epididymal mass

6.14 Urinary System.

6.14.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Renal failure or insufficiency requiring continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) or hemodialysis
- (2) Any urinary condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks
- (3) Chronic kidney disease of Stage 4 or greater [glomerular filtration rate (GFR) < 1 oz/min (30 ml/min)]

6.14.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Diseases of the kidney
- (2) Diseases of the ureter, bladder, or prostate

6.15 Spine and Axial Skeleton.

Δ 6.15.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Scoliosis of thoracic or lumbar spine with angle greater than or equal to 40 degrees
- (2) Any spinal or skeletal condition producing sensory or motor deficit(s) or pain due to radiculopathy or nerve compression
- (3) Any spinal or skeletal condition causing pain that frequently or recurrently requires narcotic analgesic medication
- (4) Cervical vertebral fractures with multiple vertebral body compression greater than 25 percent; evidence of posterior element involvement, nerve root damage, disc involvement, dislocation (i.e., partial, moderate, severe), abnormal exam, ligament instability, symptomatic, and/or less than 6 months post injury or less than 1 year since surgery

- (5) Thoracic vertebral fractures with vertebral body compression greater than 50 percent; evidence of posterior element involvement, nerve root damage, disc involvement, dislocation (e.g., severe — with or without surgery), abnormal exam, ligament instability, symptomatic, and/or less than 6 months post injury or less than 1 year since surgery
- (6) Lumbosacral vertebral fractures with vertebral body compression greater than 50 percent; evidence of posterior element involvement, nerve root damage, disc involvement, dislocation (i.e., partial, moderate, severe), fragmentation, abnormal exam, ligament instability, symptomatic, and/or less than 6 months post injury or less than 1 year since surgery
- (7) History of spine surgery or injury that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.15.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Congenital or developmental malformations of the back, particularly those that can cause instability, neurological deficits, pain, or limit flexibility
- (2) Scoliosis with angle less than 40 degrees
- (3) Arthritis of the cervical, thoracic, or lumbosacral spine
- (4) Facet tropism, high lumbosacral angle, hyperlordosis, Schmorl's nodes, Scheuermann's disease, spina bifida occulta, spondylolisthesis, spondylolysis, or transitional vertebrae
- (5) History of infections or infarcts in the spinal cord, epidural space, vertebrae, or axial skeletal joints
- (6) History of disectomy or laminectomy or vertebral fractures

6.16 Extremities.

Δ 6.16.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Joint replacement, unless all the following conditions are met:
 - (a) Normal range of motion without history of dislocations post-replacement
 - (b) Repetitive and prolonged pulling, bending, rotations, kneeling, crawling, and climbing without pain or impairment
 - (c) No limiting pain
 - (d) Evaluation by an orthopedic specialist who concurs that the candidate can complete all essential job tasks listed in Chapter 5
- (2) Amputation or congenital absence of upper-extremity limb (hand or higher)
- (3) Amputation of either thumb proximal to the mid-proximal phalanx
- (4) Amputation or congenital absence of lower-extremity limb (foot or above) unless the candidate meets all of the following conditions:
 - (a) Stable, unilateral below-the-knee (BKA) amputation with at least the proximal third of the tibia present for a strong and stable attachment point with the prosthesis
 - (b) Fitted with a prosthesis that will tolerate the conditions present in fire fighting when worn in conjunction with standard fire-fighting PPE

- (c) At least 6 months of prosthetic use in a variety of activities with no functional difficulties
- (d) Amputee limb healed with no significant inflammation, persistent pain, necrosis, or indications of instability at the amputee limb attachment point
- (e) No significant psychosocial issues pertaining to the loss of limb or use of prosthesis
- (f) Evaluated by a prosthetist or orthopedic specialist with expertise in the fitting and function of prosthetic limbs who concurs that the candidate can complete all essential job tasks listed in Chapter 5, including wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA while climbing ladders, operating from heights, and walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces that may be wet or icy
- (g) Has passed the department's applicant physical ability test as a condition of appointment without accommodations or modification of the protocol

- (5) Chronic nonhealing or recent bone grafts
- (6) History of more than one dislocation of shoulder without surgical repair or with history of recurrent shoulder disorders within the last 5 years with pain or loss of motion, and with or without radiographic deviations from normal
- (7) Any extremity condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.16.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* History of shoulder dislocation with surgical repair
- (2) Significant limitation of function of shoulder, elbow, wrist, hand, or finger due to weakness, reduced range of motion, atrophy, unequal length, absence, or partial amputation
- (3) Significant lack of full function of hip, knee, ankle, foot, or toes due to weakness, reduced range of motion, atrophy, unequal length, absence, or partial amputation
- (4)* History of meniscectomy or ligamentous repair of knee
- (5)* History of intra-articular, malunited, or nonunion of upper or lower extremity fracture
- (6)* History of osteomyelitis, septic, or rheumatoid arthritis
- (7) Bone hardware such as metal plates or rods supporting bone during healing

6.17 Neurological Disorders.

6.17.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) All single unprovoked seizures and epileptic conditions, including simple partial, complex partial, generalized, and psychomotor seizure disorders other than the seizure disorders meeting all of the following conditions:
 - (a) No seizures for the most recent consecutive 5 years after single unprovoked seizure
 - (b) No seizures for the most recent consecutive 10 years if the applicant was diagnosed with epilepsy
 - (c) Currently on a stable regimen of antiepileptic drugs for the most recent 5 years, or on no antiepileptic drugs for the most recent 5 years
 - (d) Normal neurological examination results
 - (e) Normal brain MRI results
 - (f) Normal awake and asleep photic stimulation and hyperventilation EEG study results
 - (g) A definitive statement from a qualified neurological specialist that the candidate meets the criteria

specified in 6.17.1(1) and is neurologically cleared for fire-fighting training and the performance of a fire fighter's essential job task

- (2) Ataxias of heredo-degenerative type
- (3) Cerebral arteriosclerosis as evidenced by a history of transient ischemic attack, reversible ischemic neurological deficit, or ischemic stroke
- (4) Hemiparalysis or paralysis of a limb
- (5)* Multiple sclerosis with activity or evidence of progression within the previous 3 years
- (6)* Myasthenia gravis with activity or evidence of progression within the previous 3 years
- (7) Progressive muscular dystrophy or atrophy
- (8) Uncorrected cerebral aneurysm
- (9) Dementia (e.g., Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases) with symptomatic loss of function or cognitive impairment (e.g., less than or equal to 28 on Mini-Mental Status Exam)
- (10) Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders resulting in uncontrolled movements, bradykinesia, or cognitive impairment (e.g., less than or equal to 28 on Mini-Mental Status Exam)
- (11) Narcolepsy with cataplexy
- (12) Narcolepsy with persistent excessive daytime sleepiness despite medical treatment
- (13) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)
- (14) Any neurological condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

• **6.17.2** Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Congenital malformations
- (2)* Migraine
- (3) Clinical disorders with paresis, dyscoordination, deformity, abnormal motor activity, abnormality of sensation, or complaint of pain
- (4) History of subarachnoid or intraparenchymal hemorrhage
- (5) Abnormalities from recent head injury such as severe cerebral contusion or concussion
- (6) Provoked seizure

6.18 Skin.

6.18.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Metastatic or locally extensive basal or squamous cell carcinoma or melanoma
- (2) Any dermatologic condition that would not allow for a successful fit test for any respirator required by the fire department
- (3) Any dermatologic condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.18.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Skin conditions of a chronic or recurrent nature (eczema, cystic acne, psoriasis) that cause skin openings or inflammation or irritation of the skin surface
- (2)* Surgery or skin grafting
- (3)* Mycosis fungoides
- (4)* Cutaneous lupus erythematosus
- (5)* Raynaud's phenomenon

- (6)* Scleroderma (skin)
- (7)* Vasculitic skin lesions
- (8)* Atopic dermatitis/eczema
- (9)* Contact or seborrheic dermatitis
- (10)* Stasis dermatitis
- (11)* Albinism, Darier's disease, ichthyosis, Marfan syndrome, neurofibromatosis, and other genetic conditions
- (12)* Folliculitis, pseudo-folliculitis, miliaria, keloid folliculitis
- (13)* Hidradenitis suppurativa, furuncles, carbuncles, or Grade IV acne (cystic)
- (14)* Mechano-bullous disorders (epidermolysis bullosa, Hailey pemphigus, porphyria, pemphigoid)
- (15)* Urticaria or angioedema

6.19 Blood and Blood-Forming Organs.

6.19.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Hemorrhagic states requiring replacement therapy
- (2) Sickle cell disease (homozygous)
- (3) Clotting disorders
- (4) Any hematological condition that results in inability to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.19.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Anemia
- (2) Leukopenia
- (3) Polycythemia vera
- (4) Splenomegaly
- (5) History of thromboembolic disease
- (6) Any other hematological condition that results in inability to safely perform essential job tasks

6.20 Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders.

Δ **6.20.1** Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1)* Type 1 diabetes mellitus, unless a candidate meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is maintained by a physician knowledgeable in current management of diabetes mellitus on a basal/bolus (can include subcutaneous insulin infusion pump) regimen using insulin analogs.
 - (b) Has demonstrated over a period of at least 6 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels through nutritional therapy and insulin administration. Assessment of this shall take into consideration the erratic meal schedules, sleep disruption, and high aerobic and anaerobic workloads intrinsic to fire fighting.
 - (c) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
 - (d) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)

- (e) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy might be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
 - (f) Has normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 MET) by ECG and cardiac imaging.
 - (g) Has a signed statement and medical records from an endocrinologist or a physician with demonstrated knowledge in the current management of diabetes mellitus as well as knowledge of the essential job tasks and hazards of fire fighting as described in 5.1.1, allowing the fire department physician to determine whether the candidate meets the following criteria:
 - i. Is being successfully maintained on a regimen consistent with 6.20.1(1)(a) and 6.20.1(1)(b).
 - ii. Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of 2 to 3 months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. A hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels. This shall include evidence of a set schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.
 - iii. Does not have an increased risk of hypoglycemia due to alcohol use or other predisposing factors.
 - iv.* Has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another) in the preceding 1 year, with no more than two episodes of severe hypoglycemia in the preceding 3 years.
 - v. Is certified not to have a medical contraindication to fire-fighting training and operations.
 - (2) Insulin-requiring Type 2 diabetes mellitus, unless a candidate meets all of the following criteria:
 - (a) Is maintained by a physician knowledgeable in current management of diabetes mellitus.
 - (b) Has demonstrated over a period of at least 3 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels through nutritional therapy and insulin administration. Assessment of this shall take into consideration the erratic meal schedules, sleep disruption, and high aerobic and anaerobic workloads intrinsic to fire fighting.
 - (c) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
 - (d) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)
 - (e) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy can be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
 - (f) Has normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 METS) by ECG and cardiac imaging.
 - (g) Has a signed statement and medical records from an endocrinologist or a physician with demonstrated knowledge in the current management of diabetes mellitus as well as knowledge of the essential job tasks and hazards of fire fighting as described in 5.1.1, allowing the fire department physician to determine whether the candidate meets the following criteria:
 - i. Is maintained on a stable insulin regimen and has demonstrated over a period of at least 3 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels despite varied activity schedules through nutritional therapy and insulin administration.
 - ii. Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of 2 to 3 months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. A hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels. This shall include evidence of a set schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.
 - iii. Does not have an increased risk of hypoglycemia due to alcohol use or other predisposing factors.
 - iv.* Has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another) in the preceding 1 year, with no more than two episodes of severe hypoglycemia in the preceding 3 years
 - v. Is certified not to have a medical contraindication to fire-fighting training and operations.
 - (3) Any endocrine or metabolic condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks
- 6.20.2** Category B medical conditions shall include the following:
- (1)* Diseases of the adrenal gland, pituitary gland, parathyroid gland, or thyroid gland of clinical significance
 - (2) Nutritional deficiency diseases or other metabolic disorder

(3) Diabetes mellitus, not on insulin therapy, but controlled by diet, exercise, and/or oral hypoglycemic agents unless all of the following are met:

- (a) Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of 2 to 3 months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. A hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels. This shall include evidence of a set schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.
- (b) If on oral hypoglycemic agents, has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another) in the preceding year.
- (c) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
- (d) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)
- (e) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy can be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
- (f) Normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 METs) by ECG and cardiac imaging.

6.21 Systemic Diseases and Miscellaneous Conditions.

6.21.1 Category A medical conditions shall include any systemic condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks.

6.21.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Connective tissue disease, such as dermatomyositis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, and rheumatoid arthritis
- (2)* History of thermal, chemical, or electrical burn injury with residual functional deficit
- (3) Documented evidence of a predisposition to or history of heat illness, rhabdomyolysis, metabolic acidosis, or exertion-related incapacitation

6.22 Tumors and Malignant Diseases.

6.22.1 Category A medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) Malignant disease that is newly diagnosed, untreated, or currently being treated, or under active surveillance due

to the increased risk for reoccurrence, unless not interfering with the performance of the essential job tasks

- (2) Any tumor or similar condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.22.2 Category B medical conditions shall be evaluated on the basis of an individual's current physical condition and on the staging and prognosis of the malignancy (i.e., likelihood that the disease will recur or progress), and include the following:

- (1)* Benign tumors
- (2)* History of CNS tumor or malignancy
- (3)* History of head and neck malignancy
- (4)* History of lung cancer
- (5)* History of GI or GU malignancy
- (6)* History of bone or soft tissue tumors or malignancies
- (7)* History of hematological malignancy

6.23 Psychiatric Conditions.

6.23.1 Category A medical conditions shall include any psychiatric condition that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks.

6.23.2 Category B medical conditions shall include the following:

- (1) A history of psychiatric condition or substance abuse problem
- (2) Requirement for medications that increase an individual's risk of heat stress, or other interference with the ability to safely perform essential job tasks

6.24 Chemicals, Drugs, and Medications.

6.24.1 Category A medical conditions shall include those that require chronic or frequent treatment with any of the following medications or classes of medications:

- (1) Narcotics, including methadone
- (2) Sedative-hypnotics
- (3)* Full-dose or low-dose anticoagulation medications or any drugs that prolong prothrombin time (PT), partial thromboplastin time (PTT), or international normalized ratio (INR)
- (4) Beta-adrenergic blocking agents at doses that prevent a normal cardiac rate response to exercise, high-dose diuretics, or central acting antihypertensive agents (e.g., clonidine)
- (5)* Respiratory medications: inhaled bronchodilators, inhaled corticosteroids, systemic corticosteroids, theophylline, and leukotriene receptor antagonists (e.g., montelukast)
- (6) High-dose corticosteroids for chronic disease
- (7) Anabolic steroids
- (8) Any chemical, drug, or medication that results in the candidate not being able to safely perform one or more of the essential job tasks

6.24.1.1 Tobacco use shall be a Category A medical condition (where allowed by law).

6.24.1.2 Evidence of illegal drug use detected through testing, conducted in accordance with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA), shall be a Category A medical condition.

6.24.1.3 Evidence of clinical intoxication or a measured blood alcohol level that exceeds the legal definition of intoxication according to the AHJ at the time of medical evaluation shall be a Category A medical condition.

6.24.2* Category B medical conditions shall include the use of the following:

- (1) Cardiovascular agents
- (2) Stimulants
- (3) Psychiatric medications
- (4) Other than high-dose systemic corticosteroids
- (5) Antihistamines
- (6) Muscle relaxants
- (7) Leukotriene receptor antagonists (e.g., **montelukast**) used for allergies that do not affect the lower respiratory system

Chapter 7 Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members

7.1 General.

7.1.1 The fire department shall establish and maintain a confidential occupational medical evaluation program for members.

7.1.2 Occupational medical evaluations shall be conducted as a baseline for surveillance and annually thereafter.

7.1.3* An occupational medical evaluation shall be performed following a member's occupational exposure, illness, injury, or protracted absence from the job.

7.1.3.1 The scope of that evaluation shall be determined by the fire department physician after reviewing the type and severity of the condition.

7.1.4 The components of the medical evaluations shall conform to all applicable U.S. OSHA standards, including 29 CFR 1910.120, "Hazardous waste operations and emergency response"; 29 CFR 1910.134, "Respiratory protection"; 29 CFR 1910.95, "Occupational noise exposure"; and 29 CFR 1910.1030, "Bloodborne pathogens."

7.2 Member Education Regarding Occupational Medical Evaluation Program.

7.2.1 The fire department, the fire department physician, and member organizations where they exist shall be responsible to convey the purposes and importance of the annual occupational medical evaluation to members and to the AHJ.

7.2.2 The purpose of the annual occupational medical evaluation of members shall include but cannot be limited to the following:

- (1) Identifying conditions that interfere with a member's physical or mental ability to safely perform essential job tasks without undue risk of harm to self or others
- (2) Monitoring the effects of exposure to specific biological, physical, or chemical agents on individual members
- (3) Detecting changes in a member's health that can be related to harmful working conditions
- (4) Detecting patterns of disease or injury occurrence in the workforce that could indicate underlying work-related problems
- (5)* Providing members with information about their current health, promoting wellness, and referring them for appropriate further evaluation and treatment

- (6) Providing members with information and education about occupational hazards
- (7) Providing a cost-effective investment in work-related disease prevention, early detection, and health promotion for members
- (8) Complying with federal, state, provincial, local, and/or other jurisdictional requirements

7.3 Timing of the Annual Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members.

7.3.1 All members shall receive a baseline medical evaluation after hiring and prior to performing fire fighter emergency functions and at least annually thereafter.

7.3.2 The baseline medical evaluation shall include the components of the annual occupational medical evaluation not performed as part of the candidate medical evaluation, provided the candidate medical evaluation was performed within the past 12 months.

7.3.3 The annual evaluation shall be completed every 12 months (± 3 months).

7.3.4 Annual medical evaluations shall be compared to baseline and subsequent evaluations to identify clinically relevant changes.

7.3.5 The interval requirements for performance of the annual occupational medical evaluation shall not preclude more frequent medical evaluations of members for new or recurring conditions when requested by the member, fire department physician, or AHJ.

7.4 Components of the Annual Occupational Medical Evaluation of Members.

7.4.1 All components listed in Section 7.5 through Section 7.7 shall be included in the baseline and annual occupational medical evaluations of members.

7.4.2 It shall be acceptable for certain components of the annual occupational medical evaluation to be performed by a member's private physician, provided full results are forwarded in the required time frame to the fire department physician.

7.4.3 Each medical evaluation shall include a medical history (including exposure history), physical examination, blood tests, urinalysis, vision tests, audiograms, spirometry, chest x-ray (as indicated), ECG, cancer screening (as indicated), and immunizations and infectious disease screening (as indicated).

7.4.4 Tests for illegal drugs shall not be performed as part of the annual medical evaluation.

7.5 Medical History.

7.5.1* A medical history questionnaire shall be completed by each member to provide baseline information with which to compare future medical concerns.

7.5.2 An annual medical history questionnaire, which includes changes in health status and known occupational exposures since the previous annual evaluation, shall be completed by each member to provide follow-up information.

7.5.3 Information on the questionnaire and interval concerns shall be reviewed with each member by the fire department physician or designated medical evaluator.

7.6 Physical Examination. The annual physical examination shall include each of the following components:

- (1) Vital signs [temperature, pulse, and respiratory rate, and blood pressure (BP)]
 - (a) BP shall be measured according to the recommendations of the *Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure* (JNC 7)
- (2) Head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat (HEENT)
- (3) Neck
- (4) Cardiovascular
- (5) Pulmonary
- (6) Breast
- (7) Gastrointestinal with digital rectal exam as clinically indicated
- (8) Hernia
- (9) Lymph nodes
- (10) Neurological
- (11) Musculoskeletal
- (12)* Skin (includes screening for cancers)
- (13) Vision

7.7 Ancillary Tests.

Δ 7.7.1* Blood Tests. Blood tests shall be performed for fire fighters, at minimum, every three years for those under the age of 40, and every year for those over the age of 40, and shall include the following:

- (1) CBC with differential, RBC indices and morphology, and platelet count
- (2) Electrolytes (Na, K, Cl, HCO₃, or CO₂)
- (3) Renal function (BUN, creatinine)
- (4) Glucose
- (5) Liver function tests (ALT, AST, direct and indirect bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase)
- (6) Total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, clinically useful lipid ratios (e.g., percent LDL), and triglycerides

7.7.2 Urine Laboratory Tests. The urine laboratory tests required shall include the following:

- (1) Dipstick analysis for glucose, ketones, leukocyte esterase, protein, blood, and bilirubin
- (2) Microscopic analysis for RBC, WBC, casts, and crystals if indicated by results of dipstick analysis
- (3) Analysis for occupational chemical exposure if indicated

7.7.3* Audiology. Hearing thresholds shall be assessed annually in each ear at each of the following frequencies:

- (1) 500 Hz
- (2) 1000 Hz
- (3) 2000 Hz
- (4) 3000 Hz
- (5) 4000 Hz
- (6) 6000 Hz
- (7) 8000 Hz

7.7.3.1 The fire department physician or other qualified medical evaluator shall compare audiogram results obtained during yearly evaluations with baseline and subsequent test results.

7.7.3.2 Standard threshold shifts shall be corrected for age as permitted by OSHA.

7.7.4 Spirometry.

7.7.4.1* Pulmonary function testing (spirometry) shall be conducted annually to measure the member's forced vital capacity (FVC), forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁), and the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio.

7.7.4.2 The fire department physician or other qualified medical evaluator shall compare spirometry results obtained during yearly evaluations with baseline and subsequent test results.

7.7.4.3* FEV₁ and FVC results shall be expressed as the absolute value (liters or milliliters) and as percent predicted adjusted for gender, age, height, and ethnicity using NHANES III normative equations.

7.7.5 Chest Radiographs.

Δ 7.7.5.1 Chest x-rays shall include an initial baseline and shall be repeated as medically indicated.

7.7.5.2 The fire department physician or other qualified medical evaluator shall compare any chest radiographs with baseline and subsequent radiographs.

7.7.6 Electrocardiograms (ECGs).

7.7.6.1 A resting 12-lead ECG shall be performed as part of the baseline medical evaluation and shall be performed annually after age 40 or as clinically indicated.

7.7.6.2 The fire department physician or other qualified medical evaluator shall compare baseline and subsequent ECGs.

- **7.7.6.3** The fire department physician or other qualified medical evaluator shall compare baseline and subsequent stress tests, when available, to identify clinically relevant changes.

N 7.7.7 Risk Stratification.

N 7.7.7.1 Asymptomatic fire fighters 40 years of age or older with no known atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) shall be assessed annually for their 2-year and 10-year risks of ASCVD, defined as coronary death, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or fatal or nonfatal stroke.

N 7.7.7.2 Asymptomatic fire fighters younger than 40 years of age known to be at high risk for ASCVD shall be assessed for coronary artery disease.

N 7.7.7.3 The 10-year Heart Risk Calculator created by the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) shall be used to generate a 10-year risk of ASCVD, taking into consideration the individual's age, sex, race, total cholesterol, high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, systolic blood pressure, blood pressure-lowering medication use, diabetes status, and smoking status.

N 7.7.7.3.1* Intermediate Risk.

N 7.7.7.3.1.1 Those assessed as being at intermediate risk (i.e., 10 to <20 percent risk of ASCVD over the next 10 years) shall be further evaluated using symptom-limiting exercise stress testing (EST) with or without imaging [e.g., echocardiography, technetium (^{99m}Tc) sestamibi study] to at least 12 METs.

N 7.7.7.3.1.2 Negative ESTs shall be repeated at least every 2 to 5 years or as clinically indicated, and positive tests shall be referred to a cardiologist for further evaluation and treatment.

N 7.7.7.3.2 High Risk. Those assessed as being at high risk (i.e., ≥ 20 percent risk of ASCVD over the next 10 years) shall be referred to a cardiologist for further evaluation and treatment.

N 7.7.7.4* The Framingham Heart Study 2-year risk prediction score sheets shall be used to generate a 2-year risk of ASCVD, using all of the factors described in 7.7.7.3 except race.

N 7.7.7.4.1 Intermediate Risk. Those assessed as being at intermediate risk (i.e., 2 to 4 percent risk of ASCVD over the next 2 years) shall follow the same evaluation in 7.7.7.3.1.

N 7.7.7.4.2 High Risk. Those assessed as being at high risk (i.e., ≥ 4 percent risk of ASCVD over the next 2 years) shall be referred to a cardiologist for further evaluation and treatment.

7.7.8 Mammography.

Δ 7.7.8.1 Mammography shall be performed on each female member bi-annually for those over the age of 40 and annually for those over the age 50 or as clinically indicated.

7.7.8.2 A qualified radiologist shall compare mammograms to prior mammograms.

7.7.8.3 The fire department physician shall compare mammography reports to prior reports.

Δ 7.7.9 Immunizations and Infectious Disease Screening. The following infectious disease immunizations or infectious disease screenings shall be provided, as indicated:

- (1)* Tuberculosis (TB) screening — baseline, by either tuberculin skin testing using the tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD) or the tuberculin blood test (interferon gamma release assay); subsequent tuberculosis screening to be performed annually or at a frequency according to CDC guidelines unless the member has a history of positive tuberculin screening test, in which case CDC guidelines for management and subsequent chest radiographic surveillance apply
- (2) Hepatitis C virus screening — baseline and following occupational exposure
- (3) Hepatitis B virus vaccinations and titers — as specified in CDC guidelines; laboratory confirmation of immunity to be tested 1–2 months after completion of the vaccination 3 dose series
- (4)* Tetanus/diphtheria /pertussis (Tdap) vaccine — can be given once to replace the Td booster every 10 years or the 5-year wound management Td dose
- (5)* Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMR) — in absence of documented immunity, two doses of MMR to be administered according to current immunization guidelines
- (6) Polio vaccine — a single booster of IPV for members traveling to endemic areas in the line of duty, or as outlined in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* article, “Poliomyelitis Prevention in the United States: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)”
- (7) Hepatitis A vaccine
- (8) Varicella vaccine — offered to all non-immune personnel
- (9) Influenza vaccine (seasonal and novel) — offered to all personnel annually
- (10) HIV screening — available to all personnel

7.7.9.1 Pre-screening and immunization against biological threat agents shall be made available to members following CDC guidelines or recommendations.

7.7.9.2* All members shall be offered immunizations against infectious diseases as required by the AHJ and by 29 CFR 1910.1030, “Bloodborne Pathogens.”

7.7.9.3 The fire department physician shall ensure that all members are offered currently recommended immunizations.

7.7.10 Post-Exposure Bloodborne Pathogen Testing.

7.7.10.1 Physicians who care for members shall follow current CDC recommendations for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for bloodborne pathogen (BBP) exposures.

7.7.10.2* There shall be a written protocol for members who present with BBP exposures.

7.7.11 HIV Testing. HIV testing shall be offered on a confidential basis as part of post-exposure protocols and as requested by the fire department physician or member.

7.7.11.1 All results from HIV tests shall be provided directly to the member and shall be maintained by the physician as confidential documents.

7.7.11.2 Results from HIV tests shall not be forwarded to any local, state, provincial, national, or international authorities or databases unless mandated by public health statutes.

7.7.12 Heavy Metal Evaluation.

7.7.12.1 Baseline testing for heavy metals shall be required when indicated by known exposure or substantial risk.

7.7.12.2 Evaluations shall be performed following known exposures, for recurrent exposures, or where required under federal, state, or provincial regulations.

7.7.13 Colon Cancer Screening.

7.7.13.1 Fecal occult blood testing risks and benefits shall be discussed with all members above the age of 40, or earlier if clinically indicated.

7.7.13.2* Colonoscopy services shall be recommended to all members above the age of 50, or earlier if clinically indicated and repeated at regular intervals.

7.7.14* Prostate Cancer. Due to increased prostate cancer risk, the fire department physician shall discuss the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening, including prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing, with all male fire fighters beginning at age 50 and annually thereafter.

N 7.7.14.1 For male fire fighters of African-American heritage who are at a higher risk for prostate cancer, the physician shall discuss the risks and benefits of prostate cancer screening, including PSA testing, beginning at age 40 and annually thereafter.

N 7.7.15 Lung Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.15.1 Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) shall be performed annually on fire fighters over the age of 55 who have a 30-pack-a-year smoking history and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.

N 7.7.15.2 Screening shall be discontinued once a fire fighter has not smoked cigarettes for 15 years or is too ill to benefit.

N 7.7.16 Cervical Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.16.1 Female fire fighters shall be screened for cervical cancer with cytology (Pap smear) every 3 years or screened for a combination of cytology and human papillomavirus (HPV) testing every 5 years.

N 7.7.17 Testicular Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.17.1 A baseline examination shall be performed by a health care provider.

N 7.7.18 Bladder Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.18.1 Urine shall be evaluated for blood (hematuria).

N 7.7.18.2 A positive dipstick for hematuria shall require a follow-up and referral which could involve upper tract imaging, cystoscopy, and/or urine cytology.

N 7.7.19 Oral Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.19.1 The entire mouth shall be examined for signs of oral and oropharyngeal cancers.

N 7.7.20 Thyroid Cancer Screening.

N 7.7.20.1 Physical exam for palpable nodules shall be part of the annual physical examination.

N 7.7.21 Sleep Disturbance Screening.

N 7.7.21.1 Screening for sleep disorders using a validated questionnaire, such as the Berlin Questionnaire or Epworth Sleepiness Scale, shall be provided annually.

N 7.7.21.2* For fire fighters with a high index of suspicion for a sleep disorder based on questionnaires or biometric data, the physician shall discuss the risks and benefits of testing and treatment.

N 7.7.22* Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction.

N 7.7.22.1 The fire department physician shall annually inform members of the heightened risks of cardiovascular disease and various types of cancer associated with fire fighting.

N 7.7.22.2 In addition to medical screening for these entities as outlined in this standard, the member shall be apprised of occupational routes of hazardous exposures related to fire fighting, as well as common signs, symptoms, and preventive measures for both cardiovascular disease and cancers.

N 7.7.23 Occupational Stress Awareness Consultation.

N 7.7.23.1 The fire department physician shall, during the annual physical, inform the member of, and assess for the heightened risks of, stress associated with occupational exposures related to fire fighting.

N 7.7.23.2 The fire department physician shall make the member aware of common adverse signs and symptoms of occupational stress, inform the member of practices that might limit the damaging effects of occupational stress, and provide the member with referral to licensed behavioral health specialists trained to recognize and treat stress-related disorders in first responders as indicated.

Chapter 8 Annual Occupational Fitness Evaluation of Members**8.1 Weight and Body Composition.**

8.1.1* Body weight shall be measured and recorded annually.

8.1.2 A body composition evaluation including the following shall be conducted on personnel solely for the purpose of departmental health surveillance:

- (1)* Circumferential measurements
- (2) Hydrostatic weighing or Bod-Pod
- (3)* Skinfold measurements
- (4) Bio impedance analysis

8.2 Annual Fitness Evaluation.

8.2.1 A mandatory fitness evaluation that is not punitive or competitive shall be conducted annually as part of an individualized program.

8.2.1.1 All component results of the mandatory fitness evaluation shall be used to establish an individual's baseline or measured against the individual's previous assessments and not against any standard or norm.

8.2.2 The mandatory fitness evaluation shall include a mandatory pre-evaluation procedure and the components in 8.2.2.1 through 8.2.2.4. *(For additional information, see Annex C.)*

8.2.2.1* An evaluation of aerobic capacity shall be performed after appropriate medical evaluation.

8.2.2.1.1 Testing shall be conducted using an appropriate maximal or submaximal protocol *(see C.2.1 and C.2.1.1)*. Bicycle ergometry is not appropriate because it underestimates true aerobic capacity and is not work-task specific.

8.2.2.1.2* At levels below 12 METs, a firefighter shall be counseled to improve his/her fitness.

N 8.2.2.1.3 At levels below 10 METs, participation in a prescribed aerobic fitness program shall be required.

8.2.2.1.4 At levels at or below 8 METs, a prescribed aerobic fitness program shall be required, and the AHJ shall be advised to consider restriction from essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13.

8.2.2.2 An evaluation of muscular strength shall be conducted using each of the following protocols:

- (1) Grip strength evaluation *(See C.2.1.5 for the protocol.)*
- (2) Leg strength evaluation *(See C.2.1.6 for the protocol.)*
- (3) Arm strength evaluation *(See C.2.1.7 for the protocol.)*

8.2.2.3 An evaluation of muscular endurance shall be conducted using each of the following protocols:

- (1) Push-up evaluation *(See C.2.1.9 for the protocol.)*
- (2) Curl-up evaluation *(See C.2.1.11 for the protocol.)*

8.2.2.4 An evaluation of flexibility shall be conducted using the sit-and-reach protocol. *(See C.2.1.12 for the protocol.)*

Chapter 9 Essential Job Tasks — Specific Evaluation of Medical Conditions in Members

9.1 Essential Job Tasks.

9.1.1 The essential job tasks listed by number in this chapter are the same as those listed in Chapter 5 and shall be validated by the fire department as required by Chapter 5.

Δ 9.1.2 The fire department physician shall use the list of essential job tasks in evaluating the ability of a member with specific medical conditions to perform specific job tasks.

Δ 9.1.3 Essential job tasks referenced throughout this chapter by number only shall correspond to the following model list:

- (1)* Wearing personal protective ensemble and SCBA, performing fire-fighting tasks (e.g., hoseline operations, extensive crawling, lifting and carrying heavy objects, ventilating roofs or walls using power or hand tools, forcible entry), rescue operations, and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions, including working in extremely hot or cold environments for prolonged time periods
- (2) Wearing an SCBA, which includes a demand valve–type positive-pressure facepiece or HEPA filter masks, which requires the ability to tolerate increased respiratory workloads
- (3) Exposure to toxic fumes, irritants, particulates, biological (i.e., infectious) and nonbiological hazards, and/or heated gases, despite the use of personal protective ensembles and SCBA
- (4) Depending on the local jurisdiction, climbing six or more flights of stairs while wearing fire protective ensemble weighing at least 50 lb (22.6 kg) or more and carrying equipment/tools weighing an additional 20 to 40 lb (9 to 18 kg)
- (5) Wearing fire protective ensemble that is encapsulating and insulated, which will result in significant fluid loss that frequently progresses to clinical dehydration and can elevate core temperature to levels exceeding 102.2°F (39°C)
- (6) Wearing personal protective ensemble and SCBA, searching, finding, and rescue-dragging or carrying victims ranging from newborns to adults weighing over 200 lb (90 kg) to safety despite hazardous conditions and low visibility
- (7) Wearing personal protective ensemble and SCBA, advancing water-filled hoselines up to 2 ½ in. (65 mm) in diameter from fire apparatus to occupancy [approximately 150 ft (50 m)], which can involve negotiating multiple flights of stairs, ladders, and other obstacles
- (8) Wearing personal protective ensemble and SCBA, climbing ladders, operating from heights, walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces, and operating in proximity to electrical power lines and/or other hazards
- (9) Unpredictable emergency requirements for prolonged periods of extreme physical exertion without benefit of warm-up, scheduled rest periods, meals, access to medication(s), or hydration
- (10) Operating fire apparatus or other vehicles in an emergency mode with emergency lights and sirens
- (11) Critical, time-sensitive, complex problem solving during physical exertion in stressful, hazardous environments, including hot, dark, tightly enclosed spaces, that is

further aggravated by fatigue, flashing lights, sirens, and other distractions

- (12) Ability to communicate (i.e., give and comprehend verbal orders) while wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA under conditions of high background noise, poor visibility, and drenching from hoselines and/or fixed protection systems (e.g., sprinklers)
- (13) Functioning as an integral component of a team, where sudden incapacitation of a member can result in mission failure or in risk of injury or death to civilians or other team members
- (14) Working in shifts, including during nighttime, that can extend beyond 12 hours

9.2 Special Teams.

Δ 9.2.1 In addition to essential job tasks specified in 9.1.3(1) through 9.1.3(13), members of specialized teams such as hazardous materials units, SCUBA teams, technical rescue teams, EMS teams, or units supporting tactical law enforcement operations shall be evaluated for their ability to perform essential job tasks and wear specialized PPE related to the duties of those specialized teams.

9.2.2 The fire department shall define those essential job tasks and shall provide the fire department physician with a description of the risks associated with those tasks and specialized PPE as well as any additional medical and/or physical requirements that are not enumerated in this standard.

9.2.3 In defining those tasks, the fire department shall consider the impact on the members required to wear or utilize specialized PPE that can increase weight, environmental isolation, sensory deprivation, and/or dehydration potential above levels experienced with standard fire suppression PPE.

Δ 9.3 Fire Department Physician Roles. After individually evaluating the member and the member's medical records, including job-related medical rehabilitation records, the fire department physician shall recommend restricting members from performing only those specific job tasks that cannot be safely performed by the member given his/her medical condition.

9.3.1 The fire department physician shall perform an individualized assessment of the fire department member.

Δ 9.3.2* The fire department shall, on a case-by-case basis, provide the AHJ a statement that documents the specific essential job task(s) (see 9.1.3) the member shall be restricted from performing.

Δ 9.3.3* The fire department physician shall not comment on whether or not the member can continue employment in the fire department.

9.3.4 There shall be no blanket exclusions.

9.3.5 The AHJ shall determine whether or not the restrictions put forth by the fire department physician can or cannot be accommodated.

9.4* Cardiovascular Disorders.

9.4.1 Cardiovascular disorders shall include any disorder of the cardiovascular system including but not limited to supraventricular or ventricular arrhythmias (abnormal heart beats), coronary artery disease, and cardiac muscle disease or valve disease.

9.4.2 If the member has any cardiovascular disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.4.3 through 9.4.23 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.4.3 Coronary Artery Disease.

9.4.3.1* Physician Evaluation. The following clinical conditions referable to coronary artery disease, including a history of myocardial infarction, coronary artery bypass surgery, coronary angioplasty with or without stent placement, or similar procedures, compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following are present:

- (1) Absence of angina pectoris, even if relieved by medication
- (2) Absence of significant stenosis in any coronary artery (i.e., greater than 70 percent lumen diameter narrowing) following treatment
- (3) Normal left ventricular ejection fraction as measured by radionuclide scan, contrast ventriculography, or echocardiography
- (4) Maximal exercise tolerance of at least 12 METs
- (5) Absence of exercise-induced ischemia, ventricular arrhythmias, or conduction abnormalities observed by radionuclide stress test during an evaluation reaching a workload of at least 12 METs
- (6) Control of modifiable risk factor(s) for acute coronary plaque rupture (e.g., tobacco use, hypertension despite treatment, hypercholesterolemia with cholesterol greater than or equal to 180 or low density lipoproteins greater than or equal to 100 despite treatment, or glycosylated hemoglobin greater than 8 percent despite exercise and/or weight reduction)
- (7) At least 6 months since most recent myocardial infarction
- (8) At least 6 months since coronary artery bypass surgery
- (9) At least 3 months since most recent angioplasty — with or without stent placement
- (10) Completion of cardiac rehab, if indicated

9.4.3.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the following when evaluating a member:

- (1) Evaluation of coronary artery disease requires a stress test with imaging and/or coronary angiogram and some assessment of left ventricular function. Following a myocardial infarction or a coronary revascularization procedure, a radionuclide stress test shall be performed to evaluate exercise tolerance and the presence of exercise-induced myocardial ischemia or ventricular arrhythmias.
- (2) Reports of left ventricular ejection fraction for evaluation of 9.4.3.1(3) should include "normal" values for the lab performing the test and formal interpretation by a cardiologist.
- (3) Workload demands of fire fighting have been shown to exceed the levels shown in 9.4.3.1(4).

9.4.4 Congestive Heart Failure.

9.4.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Congestive heart failure due to any etiology including any disease leading to a lower than normal left or right ventricular ejection fraction, even if corrected by medication, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, and 13, and the physi-

cian shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.4.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that if the heart failure is due to a reversible process that ultimately results in no abnormality in cardiac performance off all cardiac medications (e.g., hyperthyroidism, anemia), then a history of congestive heart failure does not permanently prevent a member from safely performing the essential job tasks.

9.4.5 Restrictive Cardiomyopathy and Constrictive Pericarditis.

9.4.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Restrictive cardiomyopathy and constrictive pericarditis when resulting in heart failure compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.6 Acute Pericarditis, Acute Endocarditis, and Acute Myocarditis.

9.4.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Acute pericarditis, acute endocarditis, and acute myocarditis compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.7 Chronic Pericarditis, Endocarditis, or Myocarditis.

9.4.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Chronic pericarditis, endocarditis, or myocarditis when resulting in heart failure or significant valvular incompetence or arrhythmias compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.7.2 Physician Guidance. Members with pericarditis, endocarditis, or myocarditis shall be carefully assessed for cardiac function, rhythm, and valvular competence at least annually by cardiac echo or other noninvasive or invasive monitoring in consultation with a cardiologist.

9.4.8 Hypertrophic Obstructive Cardiomyopathy.

9.4.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HCM) (including idiopathic hypertrophic subaortic stenosis) can compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.8.2 Physician Guidance. HCM is associated with life-threatening arrhythmias and sudden cardiac death without previous symptoms of heart failure. In specific populations of patients with cardiomyopathies under normal environmental conditions, the following risk factors for sudden cardiac death shall be considered by the physician:

- (1) Unexplained syncope
- (2) History of cardiac arrest
- (3) Sustained ventricular tachycardia (VT)
- (4) Nonsustained VT (3 beats or more of at least 120 beats/minute documented on a Holter monitor)
- (5) Left ventricle thickness of 30 mm or more on echocardiogram
- (6)* Abnormal systolic blood pressures during the exercise stress test (EST), defined as either a failure to increase by at least 20 mm Hg or a drop of at least 20 mm Hg during effort

9.4.9 Recurrent Syncope.

9.4.9.1* Physician Evaluation. Recurrent syncope compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.10 Pacemaker or Automatic Implantable Defibrillator.

9.4.10.1* Physician Evaluation. A medical condition requiring a pacemaker or automatic implantable defibrillator—unless the member is not pacemaker-dependent or the condition no longer requires an automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator — compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.11 Mitral Valve Stenosis.

9.4.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Moderate to severe mitral valve stenosis defined as valve area less than or equal to 1.5 cm² or pulmonary artery systolic pressure greater than 35 mm Hg compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.12 Mitral Valve Insufficiency.

9.4.12.1 Physician Evaluation. Moderate to severe mitral valve insufficiency, defined as the presence of left ventricular dysfunction, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.12.2 Physician Guidance. Mitral valve prolapse only interferes with safe performance of critical job tasks if associated with arrhythmias or if moderate to severe mitral regurgitation is present.

9.4.13 Aortic Valve Stenosis.

9.4.13.1 Physician Evaluation. Moderate to severe aortic valve stenosis defined as mean aortic valvular gradient greater than or equal to 20 mm Hg and/or valve area less than or equal to 1.0 cm² compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.14 Aortic Valve Insufficiency.

9.4.14.1 Physician Evaluation. Moderate to severe aortic valve insufficiency when the cause of left ventricular dysfunction compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.15 Prosthetic Cardiac Valves.

9.4.15.1 Physician Evaluation. Prosthetic cardiac valves compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 8 if anticoagulation is required and essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9 if left ventricular dysfunction is present, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.16 Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) Syndrome.

9.4.16.1* Physician Evaluation.

N 9.4.16.1.1 Wolff-Parkinson-White (WPW) syndrome with structural heart disease compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

N 9.4.16.1.2 WPW syndrome with a history of supraventricular tachycardia (SVT) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the member has been treated with ablation and has no inducible arrhythmias as demonstrated by electrophysiology testing.

9.4.17 Other Supraventricular Arrhythmias, Atrial Fibrillation, or Atrial Flutter.

9.4.17.1* Physician Evaluation. Other supraventricular arrhythmias, atrial fibrillation, or atrial flutter when persistent (even if rate controlled) or if anticoagulation is required compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13 and essential job task 8 if anticoagulation is required, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.17.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that if the atrial fibrillation is recurrent but self-limited off cardiac medications, there is no evidence of ischemia, and the echocardiogram reveals both a normal mitral valve and a normal-sized left atrium, then the member might be able to safely perform full duties. Paroxysmal atrial tachycardia can sometimes be resolved with modification of diet or treatment of other underlying noncardiac conditions.

9.4.18 Ventricular Arrhythmias and Ectopy.

9.4.18.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.4.18.1.1 The physician shall evaluate the member to determine if a history of ventricular arrhythmias (e.g., ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.18.1.2 A history of ventricular ectopy might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and after evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.18.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the following when evaluating the member:

- (1) A history of ventricular arrhythmias, including ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation, poses significant risk for life-threatening sudden incapacitation in the presence of structural abnormalities, functional abnormalities, or ectopy that occurs during exercise.
- (2) A history of ventricular ectopy might pose a significant risk for life-threatening sudden incapacitation if structural or ischemic heart disease is present or if ventricular ectopy increases during exercise.
- (3) Holter monitoring (i.e., 24-hour ECG recording) might show ventricular ectopy but should show no evidence of ventricular arrhythmias.
- (4) Echocardiograph must show normal function and no evidence of structural abnormalities.

- (5) Stress testing off cardiac medications must show no evidence for ischemia, ventricular tachycardia, or ventricular fibrillation.
- (6) Premature ventricular contractions (PVCs) should resolve with increasing levels of exercise up to 12 METs.

9.4.19 Atrioventricular Block.

9.4.19.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.4.19.1.1 Third-degree or complete atrioventricular block compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.19.1.2 Other types of atrioventricular block with sinus pause greater than 3 seconds, left bundle branch block, right bundle branch block, or second-degree Type I atrioventricular block might compromise the member's ability to safely perform job task 13 if cardiac structural (i.e., coronary arteries, valves, myocardium) abnormalities are present, if left ventricular function is abnormal, or if heart rate does not increase with exercise in the absence of a mechanical pacemaker, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.20 Hypertension.

N 9.4.20.1 Stage 1 Hypertension.

9.4.20.1.1* Physician Evaluation.

N 9.4.20.1.1.1 Members with stage 1 hypertension shall be referred to their primary care physician to ensure that their blood pressure is controlled and to screen for end-organ organ damage.

N 9.4.20.1.1.2 End-organ damage, or a 10 percent or greater risk of ASCVD over the next 10 years determined by using the ACC/AHA Heart Risk Calculator, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless a symptom-limiting cardiac exercise test to 12 METs is performed with normal results every 1 to 3 years.

N 9.4.20.2 Stage 2 Hypertension.

N 9.4.20.2.1 Physician Evaluation.

Δ 9.4.20.2.1.1 Stage 2 hypertension (i.e., systolic pressure greater than or equal to 160 mm Hg or diastolic pressure greater than or equal to 100 mm Hg) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

N 9.4.20.2.1.2 Once the physician has acted in accordance with 9.4.20.2.1.1, if the member's blood pressure is subsequently controlled, end-organ damage and risk of ASCVD over the next 10 years shall be assessed by using the ACC/AHA Heart Risk Calculator.

N 9.4.20.2.1.3 End-organ damage, or a 10 percent or greater risk of ASCVD over the next 10 years determined by using the ACC/AHA Heart Risk Calculator, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless a symptom-limiting cardiac exercise

test to 12 METs is performed with normal results every 1 to 3 years.

9.4.21 Metabolic Syndrome.

9.4.21.1* Members with metabolic syndrome are at increased risk for cardiovascular ischemic disease, diabetes, and accelerated hypertension and shall undergo a stress test with imaging; if the results are abnormal or the member is unable to achieve a symptom limiting cardiac exercise test to 12 METs every 1 to 3 years, the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13 will be compromised.

9.4.22 Cardiac Congenital Abnormality.

9.4.22.1 Physician Evaluation. A history of a cardiac congenital abnormality that has been treated by surgery but with residual complications or that has not been treated by surgery, leaving residuals or complications, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.23 Cardiac Hypertrophy.

9.4.23.1 Physician Evaluation. Cardiac hypertrophy without a normal response to exercise of the heart might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13 and other job functions due to limitations of endurance, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.4.23.2* Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that this condition can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation in addition to hypertension.

9.4.24 Heart Transplant.

9.4.24.1 Physician Evaluation. Cardiac transplantation prevents a normal rise in heart rate and increases risk of syncope and sudden cardiac death and therefore shall be considered as compromising the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13.

9.4.24.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that this condition can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and that the many immunosuppressive drugs required to prevent rejection increase the likelihood for infection.

9.5 Vascular Disorders.

9.5.1 Vascular disorders shall refer to any disorder of the vascular (arterial or venous) system including but not limited to aneurysm, peripheral vascular insufficiency, and thromboembolic disease.

9.5.2 If the member has any vascular disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.5.3 through 9.5.11 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks, recognizing that heart rate, blood pressure, and shear forces on vessel walls are increased when performing many of the essential job tasks, increasing the risk of acute dissection, rupture, and/or embolic phenomena that even in a normal environment can result in life-threatening sudden incapacitation.

9.5.3 Aortic Aneurysm.

9.5.3.1 Physician Evaluation. Aortic aneurysm (thoracic aortic aneurysm of any size or abdominal aortic aneurysm greater than or equal to 4 cm) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.3.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with an abdominal aortic aneurysm less than 4 cm, the physician shall recognize that treatment requires careful control of blood pressure and regular follow-up with cardiac imaging.

9.5.3.2.1 A minimum of 6 months post-surgical repair of any aortic aneurysm shall be required before the member can be evaluated for return-to-duty status.

9.5.4 Carotid Artery Disease.

9.5.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Carotid artery disease when symptomatic and/or reduction in blood flow of greater than 70 percent is present compromises the member's ability to safely perform job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.5 Thoracic Outlet Syndrome.

9.5.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Thoracic outlet syndrome (symptomatic) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.6 Peripheral Vascular Disease.

9.5.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Peripheral vascular disease (arterial or venous) when symptomatic (claudication) or severe peripheral edema is present compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.7 Thrombophlebitis.

9.5.7.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.5.7.1.1 Thrombophlebitis or deep venous thrombosis that is recurrent or persistent or requires anticoagulation compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.7.1.2 Full-dose or low-dose anticoagulation compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.8 Circulatory Instability.

9.5.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Circulatory instability as indicated by orthostatic hypotension or persistent tachycardia compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.9 Peripheral Vascular Disease.

9.5.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Peripheral vascular disease, such as severe Raynaud's phenomenon, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks (e.g., under certain conditions, including cold weather), and after

further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.10 Lymphedema.

9.5.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Chronic, severe lymphedema or massive edema of any type (e.g., due to lymphadenopathy, severe venous valvular incompetency, endocrine abnormalities, or low flow states) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.11 Lesions of Aorta or Major Vessels.

9.5.11.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.5.11.1.1 Congenital or acquired lesions of the aorta or major blood vessels might interfere with circulation and prevent the safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 4, and 7 due to limitations of endurance, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.5.11.1.2 Congenital or acquired lesions of the aorta or major blood vessels could increase the potential for life-threatening sudden incapacitation, which might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.6* Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders.

9.6.1 Endocrine and metabolic disorders shall include disorders of the hypothalamic-pituitary-thyroid-adrenal axis.

9.6.2 If the member has any endocrine and metabolic disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.6.3 through 9.6.7 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.6.3 Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus That Requires Treatment with Insulin.

9.6.3.1* Physician Evaluation. Type 1 diabetes mellitus that requires treatment with insulin compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the member meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Is maintained by a physician knowledgeable in current management of diabetes mellitus on a basal/bolus (can include subcutaneous insulin infusion pump) regimen using insulin analogs.
- (2) Has demonstrated over a period of at least 6 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels through nutritional therapy and insulin administration. Assessment of this shall take into consideration the member's experience and history dealing with erratic meal schedules, sleep disruption, and high aerobic and anaerobic workloads intrinsic to fire fighting.

- (3) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
- (4) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)
- (5) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy can be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
- (6) Has normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 METs) by ECG and cardiac imaging.
- (7) Has a signed statement and medical records from an endocrinologist or a physician with demonstrated knowledge in the current management of diabetes mellitus as well as knowledge of the essential job tasks and hazards of fire fighting as described in Section 9.1, allowing the fire department physician to determine whether the member meets the following criteria:
 - (a) Is maintained on a stable basal/bolus regimen using insulin analogs and has demonstrated over a period of at least 6 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels through nutritional therapy and insulin administration despite varied activity schedules.
 - (b) Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of two to three months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. Hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels, including evidence of a set schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.
 - (c) Does not have an increased risk of hypoglycemia due to alcohol use or other predisposing factors.
 - (d) Has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another) in the preceding 1 year, with no more than two episodes of severe hypoglycemia in the preceding 3 years.
 - (e) Is certified not to have a medical contraindication to fire-fighting training and operations.

9.6.3.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with Type 1 diabetes mellitus, the physician shall recognize that episodes of severe hypoglycemia are associated with an increased risk of subsequent episodes and that hypoglycemia can interfere with cognitive function and judgment. Presence of microvascular and neurological complications of diabetes might increase the risk of hypoglycemic events.

9.6.4 Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus That Requires Treatment with Insulin.

9.6.4.1* Physician Evaluation. Type 2 diabetes mellitus that requires treatment with insulin compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the member meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Is maintained by a physician knowledgeable in current management of diabetes mellitus.
- (2) Has demonstrated over a period of at least 3 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels through nutritional therapy and insulin administration. Assessment of this shall take into consideration the member's experience and prior history dealing with the erratic meal schedules, sleep disruption, and high aerobic and anaerobic workloads intrinsic to fire fighting.
- (3) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
- (4) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)
- (5) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy can be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
- (6) Has normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 METs) by ECG and cardiac imaging.
- (7) Has a signed statement and medical records from an endocrinologist or a physician with demonstrated knowledge in the current management of diabetes mellitus as well as knowledge of the essential job tasks and hazards of fire fighting as described in Section 9.1, allowing the fire department physician to determine whether the member meets the following criteria:
 - (a) Is maintained on a stable insulin regimen and has demonstrated over a period of at least 3 months the motivation and understanding required to closely monitor and control capillary blood glucose levels despite varied activity schedules through nutritional therapy and insulin administration.
 - (b) Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of 2 to 3 months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. Hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels, including evidence of a set

schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.

- (c) Does not have an increased risk of hypoglycemia due to alcohol use or other predisposing factors.
- (d) Has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another) in the preceding 1 year, with no more than one episode of severe hypoglycemia in the preceding 5 years.
- (e) Is certified not to have a medical contraindication to fire-fighting training and operations.

9.6.4.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with Type 2 diabetes mellitus, the physician shall recognize that episodes of severe hypoglycemia are considered the best predictors of an increased risk of subsequent episodes and hypoglycemia interferes with cognitive function and judgment.

9.6.5 Diabetes Mellitus That Does Not Require Insulin Therapy.

9.6.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Diabetes mellitus that does not require insulin therapy and that is controlled by diet, exercise, and/or oral hypoglycemic agents compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the member meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Has had hemoglobin A1C measured at least four times a year (intervals of 2 to 3 months) over the last 12 months prior to evaluation if the diagnosis of diabetes has been present over 1 year. Hemoglobin A1C reading of 8 percent or greater shall trigger a medical evaluation to determine if a condition exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels, shall including evidence of a set schedule for blood glucose monitoring and a thorough review of data from such monitoring.
- (2) If on oral hypoglycemic agents, has had no episodes of severe hypoglycemia (defined as requiring assistance of another in the preceding year).
- (3) Has a dilated retinal exam by a qualified ophthalmologist or optometrist that shows no higher grade of diabetic retinopathy than microaneurysms, as indicated on the International Clinical Diabetic Retinopathy Disease Severity Scale.
- (4) Has normal renal function based on a calculated creatinine clearance greater than 60 mL/min and absence of proteinuria. (Creatinine clearance can be calculated by use of the Cockcroft-Gault or similar formula. Proteinuria is defined as 24-hour urine excretion of greater than or equal to 300 mg protein or greater than or equal to 300 mg of albumin per gram of creatinine in a random sample.)
- (5) Has no autonomic or peripheral neuropathy. (Peripheral neuropathy is determined by diminished ability to feel the vibration of a 128 cps tuning fork or the light touch of a 10-gram monofilament on the dorsum of the great toe proximal to the nail. Autonomic neuropathy can be determined by evidence of gastroparesis, postural hypotension, or abnormal tests of heart rate variability.)
- (6) Has normal cardiac function without evidence of myocardial ischemia on cardiac stress testing (to at least 12 METs) by ECG and cardiac imaging.

9.6.6 Nutritional Deficiencies.

9.6.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Nutritional deficiencies, including those caused by congenital or acquired disorders of metabolism, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.6.6.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with nutritional deficiencies, the physician shall perform an assessment of severity and functional impact and should include percent of ideal body weight, body mass index (BMI), muscle strength, endurance, energy levels, and abilities to feed, hydrate, and absorb essential nutrients pre- and post-fire activities.

9.6.7 Diseases of the Adrenal Gland, Pituitary Gland, Parathyroid Gland, or Thyroid Gland.

9.6.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Untreated or inadequately controlled diseases of the adrenal gland, pituitary gland, parathyroid gland, or thyroid gland of clinical significance compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.6.7.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member, the physician shall recognize that clinically controlled diseases of the adrenal gland, pituitary gland, parathyroid gland, or thyroid gland with normal exam and serum levels do not compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

9.7* Lung, Chest Wall, and Respiratory Disorders.

9.7.1 Lung, chest wall, and respiratory disorders shall include disorders of breathing and the exchange of respiratory gases (oxygen and carbon dioxide), central neurologic control of respiratory drive, nose, sinuses, throat, pharynx, larynx, trachea, airways, lungs, pleura, and chest wall.

9.7.2 When evaluating a member for lung, chest wall, and respiratory disorders, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Efficient breathing and respiratory gas exchange is required for essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13.
- (2) Wearing protective clothing increases the oxygen consumption required to safely perform these tasks and, therefore, increases the respiratory workload.
- (3) SCBA is a positive-pressure demand valve respirator that provides a barrier against the inhalation of noxious/toxic gases and particulate matter but at increased metabolic cost due to its weight and increased respiratory workload (resistance and dead space).
- (4) If respiratory function or gas exchange is already compromised (increased work of breathing from structural or functional abnormalities, hypoxia, and/or hypercapnia) prior to the performance of essential job tasks, then the increased oxygen demand of strenuous physical exertion, while wearing a personal protective ensemble and/or SCBA, leads to early onset of fatigue or respiratory insufficiency.
- (5) Lung, chest wall, and respiratory disorders can compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13.

9.7.3 If the member has any lung, chest wall, or respiratory disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.7.4 through 9.7.24 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.7.4 Tracheostomy.

9.7.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Tracheostomy compromises the member's ability to safely wear SCBA (essential job task 2), communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction (essential job task 12), and effectively clear secretions or inhaled particulate matter (essential job task 3), and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.4.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that a member with a history of tracheostomy that is now sealed and without persistent respiratory disease or dysfunction does not prevent safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.7.5 Chronic Cough.

9.7.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Chronic cough with or without hemoptysis might compromise the member's ability to safely wear SCBA (essential job task 2) and to safely perform in an irritant environment (essential job task 3), and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.5.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the severity of the cough, the impact of irritants and SCBA use on cough severity, and the impact of cough severity on the ability to safely wear SCBA and perform strenuous exertion. The cause of chronic cough and/or hemoptysis needs to be evaluated, as the underlying conditions can also produce increased work of breathing, gas exchange abnormalities, or airway hyperreactivity.

9.7.6* Asthma.

9.7.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Asthma compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the following provisions are met:

- (1) The member has no bronchospasm during exertion, temperature/humidity extremes, irritant exposures, fire activities, or hazmat activities.
- (2) The member does not use bronchodilator rescue medications during exertion, temperature/humidity extremes, irritant exposures, fire activities, or hazmat activities.
- (3) A review of the member's fire department records (e.g., training, operations, rehabilitation, and medical) verifies that no asthmatic episodes have occurred during fire suppression or hazardous materials operations or training.
- (4) The member's asthma has not required systemic corticosteroids, emergency room treatment, or hospital admission in the past 2 years.
- (5) The member shows adequate reserve in pulmonary function (i.e., FVC and FEV₁ greater than or equal to 90 percent) and no bronchodilator response measured off all bronchodilators on the day of testing.
- (6)* The member has a normal or negative response of less than 20 percent decline in FEV₁ from baseline for provo-

cative challenge testing or less than 13 percent decline in FEV₁ from baseline for exercise challenge testing using cold air, methacholine (PC₂₀ greater than 8 is considered normal, as response at dose greater than 8 mg might not be clinically significant), histamine, mannitol, or exercise.

- (7) Failure to wear an SCBA during all phases of fire suppression places an asthmatic fire fighter at risk for sudden incapacitation.
- (8) The member has a signed statement from a pulmonary or asthma specialist, knowledgeable in the essential job tasks and hazards of fire fighting, that the member meets the criteria specified in 9.7.6.1(1) through 9.7.6.1(5) and can safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13 without the use of bronchodilator rescue medications.

9.7.6.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the following when evaluating the member's asthmatic condition:

- (1) Exposures to exertion, temperature extremes, cold dry air from SCBA, combustion by-products, irritants, and particulate matter are all potent provokers of asthma attacks.
- (2) Bronchodilator medications are not adequate maintenance therapy to control symptoms in the irritant environment of the fireground or hazardous materials incident scene because their use has not been approved by the FDA for use on the fireground or hazardous materials incident scene and because several studies have implicated the frequent use of beta-agonists (i.e., short- and long-acting bronchodilators) as an independent predictor or risk for sudden death and myocardial infarction in the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, and Australia.
- (3) There is a high probability that acute hyperreactivity in this environment can induce immediate or progressive clinical asthma (i.e., bronchospasm and wheeze) that can lead to sudden incapacitation from status asthmaticus and/or cardiac ischemia. There are no studies that support or deny that asthma in this environment can be prevented or adequately controlled by anti-inflammatory medications (e.g., inhaled corticosteroids, cromolyn, leukotriene modifiers). It is not acceptable to use or rely on bronchodilator medications for this purpose because in a hazardous environment, SCBA cannot be removed to use a rescue inhaler, and there are no studies that support or deny that their use is preventive or effective in a fire/smoke environment.
- (4) The member's work history, as well as clinical findings on annual evaluation, should be used as an assessment of the member's practical ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.7.7* Allergic Lower Respiratory Disorders.

9.7.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Allergic lower respiratory disorders might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.7.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that allergic lower respiratory disorder, a term used to define asthma (clinical reversible bronchospasm), is triggered by a known allergic insult and once triggered these patients have demonstrable airway hyperreactivity for weeks to months; it can be recurrent and/or become permanent.

9.7.8* Chronic Obstructive Airways Diseases.

9.7.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Chronic obstructive airways diseases (e.g., chronic bronchitis, emphysema), if moderate to severe (i.e., absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio less than or equal to 0.70 and an FEV₁ less than 70 percent predicted), compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department unless the following provisions are met:

- (1) The FEV₁ is 50 percent or greater.
- (2) The member has no bronchospasm during exertion, temperature/humidity extremes, SCBA use, irritant exposures, fire activities, or hazmat activities.
- (3) The member does not require daily bronchodilator therapy.
- (4) The member has experienced continuous tobacco cessation for more than 3 months.
- (5) The member has not required systemic corticosteroids, emergency room treatment, or hospital admission for pulmonary disease, including chronic bronchitis or pneumonia, in the past 2 years.
- (6) The member can perform an exercise test to 12 METs without exercise-induced evidence for the following:
 - (a) Bronchospasm (i.e., a decline FEV₁ of more than 13 percent from baseline)
 - (b) Oxygen desaturation (i.e., a fall in oxygen saturation on room air by 4 percent from baseline or to 94 percent or less)
 - (c) Cardiac ischemia or clinically significant arrhythmias
- (7) There is no evidence of pulmonary hypertension on echocardiography.

9.7.9 Hypoxemic Disorders.

Δ 9.7.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Hypoxemic disorders, when moderate to severe (i.e., oxygen saturation less than 90 percent or a Po₂ less than 65 mm Hg, measured at rest and corrected to sea level on room air), or the presence of significant exercise desaturation (i.e., a fall in oxygen saturation by 4 percent from baseline or to less than 90 percent) compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

Δ 9.7.9.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall recognize the following situations when evaluating the member:

- (1) A resting oxygen saturation of 90 percent to 93 percent corrected to sea level requires measurement at exercise to 12 METs determine if desaturation (i.e., decrease in oxygen saturation by greater than or equal to 4 percent from baseline or to less than 90 percent) occurs.
- (2) Hypoxia can be the result of central regulatory disturbances, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, chronic obstructive airways diseases, interstitial lung disease, pulmonary hypertension, chronic pulmonary embolism, and so forth.
- (3) In this environment, gas exchange abnormalities and respiratory insufficiency no matter the cause have the potential for life-threatening sudden incapacitation from cardiopulmonary insufficiency.

9.7.10 Hypercapnic Disorders.

9.7.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Hypercapnic disorders (elevated carbon dioxide with serum P_{CO2} greater than or equal to 45 mm Hg) found during evaluation of respiratory complaints or disease compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.10.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that hypercapnia can be the result of central regulatory disturbance, medications, obstructive sleep apnea, severe asthma, end-stage chronic obstructive airways diseases, or end-stage interstitial lung disease. In this environment, gas exchange abnormalities and respiratory insufficiency no matter the cause have the potential for life-threatening sudden incapacitation from cardiopulmonary insufficiency.

9.7.11 Pulmonary Hypertension.

9.7.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Pulmonary hypertension compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 7, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department. *[For further details see sections on hypoxia (9.7.9), pulmonary embolism (9.7.20), and cardiac valve dysfunction (9.4.11).]*

9.7.12 Tracheal Stenosis.

9.7.12.1 Physician Evaluation. Tracheal stenosis might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 12 if pulmonary dysfunction is reduced (FVC less than 60 percent of predicted or abnormal inspiratory flow volume loop) or if the underlying cause of the stenosis prevents the successful and safe performance of the essential job tasks, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.13 Pulmonary Resection Surgery, Chest Wall Surgery, or Traumatic Pneumothorax.

9.7.13.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.7.13.1.1 If the member has had pulmonary resection surgery, chest wall surgery, and/or traumatic pneumothorax, the physician shall evaluate the member for full recovery from the surgery with full pulmonary function testing (PFT), including spirometry, lung volumes, diffusion, and hemoglobin oxygen saturation.

9.7.13.1.2 Abnormal PFTs or decreased gas exchange might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.13.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the following when evaluating the member:

- (1) Pulmonary function tests should be performed after adequate healing and pain resolution and clearance by the thoracic surgeon; generally, this is 4 weeks after thoracoscopic surgery and 6 to 8 weeks after open-chest surgery.
- (2) Pulmonary function tests should be either normal or show only a minimal restrictive disorder without evidence for interstitial disease or gas exchange abnormalities.

- (3) Moderate to severe restriction (i.e., FVC less than 60 percent of predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than or equal to 0.90) or hypoxia compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks unless a more complete evaluation of gas exchange and exercise capacity shows the ability to exercise at a workload of 12 METs without evidence of exercise hemoglobin oxygen desaturation.

9.7.14* Spontaneous Pneumothorax.

9.7.14.1 Physician Evaluation. Spontaneous pneumothorax, when present, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 13 due to pain and dyspnea, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.14.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that members with a history of spontaneous pneumothorax and cystic/bullous disease (e.g., as demonstrated on chest CT scan) whose essential job task 4 includes SCUBA diving cannot safely perform this task since pressure changes during diving can induce recurrence.

9.7.15 Fibrothorax, Chest Wall Deformity, and/or Diaphragm Abnormalities.

9.7.15.1 Physician Evaluation. Fibrothorax, chest wall deformity, and/or diaphragm abnormalities might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 4, and 7, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.15.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that moderate to severe restriction (FVC less than 60 percent of predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than or equal to 0.90) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks unless a more complete evaluation of gas exchange and exercise capacity shows the ability to exercise at a workload of 12 METs without evidence of hypoxia or exercise hemoglobin oxygen desaturation.

9.7.16* Pleural Effusions.

9.7.16.1 Physician Evaluation. Pleural effusions might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 4, and 7, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.17 Bronchiectasis and/or Bronchiolitis Obliterans.

9.7.17.1 Physician Evaluation. Bronchiectasis and/or bronchiolitis obliterans might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.17.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that the ability to safely perform essential job tasks is based on symptom (frequent productive cough, wheezing, and/or dyspnea) and disease severity (chest CT scan demonstrating multilobar disease and pulmonary function tests demonstrating moderate to severe obstructive or restrictive dysfunction or gas exchange abnormalities).

9.7.18 Interstitial Lung Diseases.

9.7.18.1 Physician Evaluation. Interstitial lung diseases including pneumoconiosis (anthracosis, silicosis, asbestosis), hypersensitivity pneumonitis, eosinophilic pneumonitis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, inhalation pneumonitis, and extensive pulmonary infections might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.18.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that moderate to severe restriction (FVC less than 60 percent of predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than or equal to 0.90) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks unless a more complete evaluation of gas exchange and exercise capacity shows the ability to exercise at a workload of 12 METs without evidence of hypoxia or exercise hemoglobin oxygen desaturation.

9.7.19 Sarcoidosis.

9.7.19.1 Physician Evaluation. Sarcoidosis resulting in moderate or severe pulmonary dysfunction, significant visual impairment, cardiac dysfunction (cardiomyopathy or arrhythmia) at rest or exercise, other moderate to severe end-organ dysfunction, or the need for current treatment with systemic corticosteroids compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.19.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider the following when evaluating a member with sarcoidosis:

- (1) Most patients with sarcoidosis are asymptomatic with abnormal chest imaging studies but normal function.
- (2) If functional assessment by individual examination, pulmonary function tests, ECG, Holter ECG, and echocardiogram are normal, the member is capable of safely performing essential job tasks.
- (3) Moderate to severe restriction (i.e., FVC less than 60 percent of predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than or equal to 0.90) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks unless a more complete evaluation of gas exchange and exercise capacity shows the ability to exercise at a workload of 12 METs without evidence of exercise hemoglobin oxygen desaturation.
- (4) Cardiac function should be formally assessed with echocardiography, Holter ECG, and ECG.

9.7.20 Pulmonary Embolism.

9.7.20.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.7.20.1.1 Acute, recent, recurrent, or chronic pulmonary embolism requiring anticoagulation compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.20.1.2 Moderate to severe pulmonary dysfunction (restriction or gas exchange abnormalities) or pulmonary hypertension is rare but if present compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, and 7, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.21 Disorders of Respiratory Regulation.

9.7.21.1 Physician Evaluation. Disorders of respiratory regulation can result in gas exchange abnormalities that might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 7, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.21.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that conditions including but not limited to obstructive sleep apnea, central apnea, and disordered central breathing regulation require evaluation of medical history, physical exam, pulmonary function tests, gas exchange, exercise tests, sleep tests, and other tests as deemed necessary.

9.7.22 Cystic Lung Diseases.

9.7.22.1 Physician Evaluation.

9.7.22.1.1 Cystic lung diseases (e.g., congenital bullous disease, pneumatocele, blebs, cystic fibrosis) with significant abnormalities on chest film or moderate to severe pulmonary dysfunction (FVC less than 60 percent predicted or gas exchange abnormalities) compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, and 4, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.7.22.1.2 Members shall be restricted from SCUBA diving if disease is moderate to severe on chest CT imaging, even if pulmonary function tests are normal.

9.7.23 Tuberculosis. See Section 9.8.

9.7.24 Lung Cancer. See Section 9.17.

9.7.25 Lung Transplant.

9.7.25.1 Physician Evaluation. Lung function post-lung transplantation shall be considered as compromising a member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13).

9.8 Infectious Diseases.

9.8.1 Infectious diseases shall include systemic, local, acute, and chronic infections as well as post-infectious processes.

9.8.2 When evaluating a member for infectious diseases, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Many infections interfere with control of body temperature, hydration, and nutritional status.
- (2) Many infections also produce severe pain, muscle weakness, compromise mobility, and/or ability to safely perform heavy physical exertion.
- (3) Members must be able to safely interact with other fire fighters and civilians without posing a significant public health risk due to contagious disease.
- (4) Acute and/or self-limited infectious processes can require temporary work restriction. Examples include influenza or upper respiratory tract infection, which can interfere with safe performance of essential job tasks 2 and 3, or acute dermatitis, which would interfere with safe performance of essential job task 3.
- (5) Following resolution of these acute processes, members can return to full duty.

9.8.3 If the member has any infectious diseases, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.8.4 through 9.8.12 to determine if the diseases compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.8.4 Skin Infections and Draining Ulcers or Cysts.

9.8.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Skin infections and draining ulcers or cysts might compromise the member's ability to wear PPE (essential job tasks 2 and 5) or present too high a risk for exposure to infectious agents and toxins (essential job task 3), and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.5 Upper or Lower Respiratory Infections.

9.8.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Upper or lower respiratory infections that result in excessive cough, inability to use SCBA, or pulmonary dysfunction might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.6 Ear Infections.

9.8.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Ear infections that interfere with balance and/or hearing might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 8 and 12, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.7 Gastrointestinal Infections.

9.8.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Gastrointestinal infections including parasites that result in dehydration or frequent use of toilet facilities at least temporarily might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 8, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.8 Kidney or Urinary Infections.

9.8.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Kidney or urinary infections that result in dehydration or the frequent use of toilet facilities might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.9* Infection That Results in Dizziness, Weakness, Significant Weight Loss, or Pain.

9.8.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Any infection that results in dizziness, significant weakness, significant weight loss, or significant pain limiting functional capacity compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 5, 8, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.10* Active Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

9.8.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Active pulmonary tuberculosis, by posing a public health risk to the community and other members, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 4, 5, and 12, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.11* Hepatitis.

9.8.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Hepatitis, specifically infectious diseases of the liver caused by viruses including but not limited to A, B, C, D, and E, and the treatment of hepatitis might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.11.2 Physician Guidance. Medical management of members following occupational exposure or development of any viral hepatitis shall conform to the current CDC guidelines, which includes recommendations for restriction from various types of duty. [See 7.7.9(2).]

9.8.12* Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection.

9.8.12.1 Physician Evaluation. If the member has been diagnosed with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection, the physician shall evaluate the member to determine if the member can perform the essential job tasks.

9.8.12.1.1 AIDS and significant organ damage or dysfunction resulting from HIV infection compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 due to debilitation, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.12.1.2 Anemia, cardiopulmonary dysfunction, or neurologic dysfunction compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.12.1.3 Peripheral neuropathy compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, and 5, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.8.12.1.4 Dementia compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 11, and 12, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.9* Spine Disorders.

9.9.1 Spine disorders shall include conditions of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbosacral spine such as strains, fractures, and discogenic disease as well as cord, cauda equina, and paraspinous syndromes.

9.9.2 When evaluating a member for spine disorders, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Fire fighters with active, ongoing, or recurrent spinal disorders can have difficulty due to reduced motor strength, sensation, and flexibility as well as problems with fatigue, coordination, gait, and equilibrium.

- (2) The personal protective ensemble and SCBA can place the fire fighter's spine at a biomechanical disadvantage due to added weight and altered center of gravity.

9.9.3 If the member has any spine disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.9.4 through 9.9.9 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.9.4 Spinal Fusion.

9.9.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Spinal fusion that results in the member not being able to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13 shall be reported to the fire department by the physician.

9.9.5 Ankylosing Spondylitis.

9.9.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Ankylosing spondylitis might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.9.6 Spinal Condition with Significant Radiculopathy.

9.9.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Spinal condition with significant radiculopathy resulting in peripheral motor weakness, loss of strength, loss of sensation, and loss of reflexes affecting endurance, strength, flexibility, pain, and/or gait disturbances compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.9.7 Use of Narcotics or Muscle Relaxants.

9.9.7.1 Physician Evaluation. The use of narcotics or muscle relaxants to treat any spinal condition compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.9.7.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that medication-induced somnolence, discoordination, and/or disequilibrium compromise a member's ability to safely operate in hazardous environments.

9.9.8 Spine Structural Abnormality, Fracture, or Dislocation.

9.9.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Spine structural abnormality, fracture, or dislocation that causes progressive or recurrent impairment might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13 due to limitations of endurance, strength, flexibility, or pain, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.9.8.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that spinal structural abnormality, a fracture, or a dislocation can also result in ligament instability, increasing the risk for future dislocation and neurologic compromise.

9.9.9 Herniation of Nucleus Pulposus.

9.9.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Herniation of nucleus pulposus or a history of laminectomy, discectomy, or single-level fusion might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13 due to pain or limitations of endurance, strength, or flexibility, and after further

evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10* Orthopedic Disorders.

9.10.1 Orthopedic disorders shall include injuries and illnesses involving upper extremities, pelvis, and lower extremities including nerves, muscles, tendons, joints, and bones.

9.10.2 When evaluating a member for orthopedic disorders, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Fire fighters with active, ongoing, or recurrent orthopedic disorders can have difficulty due to reduced motor strength, sensation, and flexibility as well as problems with fatigue, coordination, gait, and equilibrium.
- (2) The personal protective ensemble and SCBA can place the fire fighter's involved extremity (upper or lower) at a biomechanical disadvantage due to added weight and altered center of gravity.
- (3) Certain medications (narcotics and muscle relaxants) used to treat orthopedic conditions can produce or worsen somnolence, discoordination, and disequilibrium.

9.10.3 If the member has any orthopedic disorders, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.10.4 through 9.10.20 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.10.4 Amputation of Arm, Hand, or Thumb.

9.10.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Amputation of an arm, hand, or thumb compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.4.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with an amputation of the arm, hand, or thumb, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) The amputation of these limbs or joints impairs grip and other physical abilities required to safely perform essential job tasks.
- (2) Prosthetic limbs do not provide adequate function to safely perform these essential job tasks rapidly in a life-threatening, unforgiving environment.

9.10.5 Amputation of Leg.

9.10.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Amputation of a leg above the knee compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.5.2 Physician Guidance.

N 9.10.5.2.1 When evaluating a member with an amputation of a leg (above or below the knee) or entire foot, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) The amputation of these limbs or joints significantly impacts ambulation and other weight-bearing activities required to safely perform essential job tasks.
- (2) Prosthetic limbs might not provide adequate function to safely perform these essential job tasks in an immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) environment.

N 9.10.5.2.2 To safely perform the essential job tasks in Chapter 5, an incumbent with a below-the-knee (BKA) amputation

and a state-of-the-art prosthesis shall meet all of the following requirements:

- (1) A stable, unilateral BKA with at least the proximal third of the tibia present for a strong and stable attachment point with the prosthesis
- (2) Fitted with a prosthesis that will tolerate the conditions present in fire fighting, when worn in conjunction with standard fire-fighting PPE
- (3) At least 6 months of prosthetic use in a variety of physically demanding activities with no functional difficulties
- (4) The amputee limb is healed with no significant inflammation, persistent pain, necrosis, or indications of instability at the amputee limb attachment point
- (5) Demonstrates no disabling psychosocial issues pertaining to the loss of limb and/or use of prosthesis
- (6) Evaluated by a prosthetist or orthopedic specialist with expertise in the fitting and function of prosthetic limbs who concurs that the candidate can complete all essential job tasks listed in Chapter 9, including wearing personal protective ensembles and SCBA while climbing ladders, operating from heights, and walking or crawling in the dark along narrow and uneven surfaces that might be wet or icy

9.10.6 Amputation of Finger(s) Other than Thumb.

9.10.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Amputation of finger(s) other than a thumb might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.6.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that the amputation of these limbs or joints might interfere with grip and other physical abilities required to safely perform essential job tasks.

9.10.7 Amputation of Partial Foot or Toe(s).

9.10.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Amputation of a partial foot or toe(s) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.7.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that the amputation of these limbs or joints might prevent ambulation and other physical abilities required to safely perform essential job tasks.

9.10.8 Dislocation of a Joint.

9.10.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Single episode of joint dislocation or dislocation with residual limitation of motion (depending upon degree) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.8.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that successful surgery for shoulder dislocation, if range of motion and strength were intact, would not interfere with the safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.10.9 Recurrent Joint Dislocation of a Major Joint.

9.10.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Recurrent joint dislocation of a major joint (e.g., shoulder) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.9.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member for recurrent joint dislocation, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Unrepaired, repeated joint dislocations indicate an unstable shoulder or hip, which can easily dislocate leading to sudden incapacitation, placing the member or the person depending on the member at life-threatening risk.
- (2) Post-surgical repair, the member can safely perform essential job tasks if joint exam shows full functional motion, strength, and stability.

9.10.10 Ligament and/or Meniscus Knee Disease.

9.10.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Ligament and/or meniscus knee disease with symptoms of locking, buckling, or giving-way compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.10.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member for ligament and/or meniscus knee disease, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Ligament and/or meniscus knee disease can lead to sudden incapacitation, placing the member or the person depending on the member at life-threatening risk.
- (2) Post-surgical repair, the member can safely perform essential job tasks if joint exam shows full functional motion, strength, and stability.

9.10.11 Joint Replacements or Artificial Joints.

9.10.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Joint replacements or artificial joints compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.11.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with joint replacements or artificial joints, the physician shall verify that all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Normal range of motion without history of dislocations post-replacement
- (2) Repetitive and prolonged pulling, bending, rotations, kneeling, crawling and climbing without pain or impairment
- (3) No limiting pain
- (4) An evaluation by an orthopedic specialist concurring that the incumbent can complete all essential job tasks listed in Chapter 9

9.10.12 Limitation of Joint Motion.

9.10.12.1 Physician Evaluation. Limitation of joint motion (depending upon degree) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 due to reduced flexibility, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.13 Joint Reconstruction.

9.10.13.1 Physician Evaluation. Joint reconstruction in cases where there is significant residual limitation of motion or strength compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.13.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that surgery for a torn anterior cruciate ligament or meniscus can interfere with safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 if quadriceps strength is reduced or if the knee is unstable or develops pain or swelling when stressed.

9.10.14 Fractures.

9.10.14.1 Physician Evaluation. Fracture(s) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.14.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with a fracture, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Fractures, including hip fractures requiring internal fixation, should not interfere with safe performance of essential job tasks as long as the radiograph demonstrates healing and exam is normal.
- (2) Non-union fractures are not healed, and members cannot safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8 until union is achieved.

9.10.15 Appliances.

9.10.15.1 Physician Evaluation. Appliances (screws, pins, and/or metal plates) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.15.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with appliances, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) If the appliances are superficial, they could lead to perforation of the skin under the normal abrasive conditions of fire fighting.
- (2) If the underlying condition responsible for the surgical implantation has healed, surgical consultation is advised to determine the risk-benefit analysis for removing the appliance.
- (3) After removing the appliance, radiographic evidence of bone healing at approximately 6 months post-removal should be obtained before the member is allowed to safely perform the essential tasks.

9.10.16 Bone Grafts.

9.10.16.1 Physician Evaluation. Bone grafts might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.16.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that bone grafts, if well healed, do not interfere with the safe

performance of job tasks as long as the radiograph demonstrates healing and the exam is normal.

9.10.17 Chronic Osteoarthritis or Traumatic Arthritis.

9.10.17.1 Physician Evaluation. Chronic osteoarthritis or traumatic arthritis resulting in frequent episodes of pain and/or reduced range of motion, strength, or endurance compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.18 Inflammatory Arthritis.

9.10.18.1 Physician Evaluation. Inflammatory arthritis (in cases where it is severe, recurrent, or a progressive illness or associated with deformity or limitation of range of motion), which can result in frequent episodes of pain, reduced strength, and reduced flexibility, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.19 Complex Regional Pain Syndrome.

9.10.19.1 Physician Evaluation. Complex regional pain syndrome, where pain is severe, narcotics or muscle relaxants are required, or strength/flexibility is limited, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.10.20 Osteomyelitis or Septic Arthritis.

9.10.20.1 Physician Evaluation. Osteomyelitis or septic arthritis, if active and causing pain, local drainage, systemic infection, and/or increased risk for pathologic or traumatic fractures, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.11 Disorders Involving the Gastrointestinal Tract and Abdominal Viscera.

9.11.1 Disorders involving the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and abdominal viscera shall include conditions of the abdominal wall and peritoneum, as well as esophagus, stomach, small bowel, colon, mesenteric structures, and intra-abdominal organs.

9.11.2 If the member has any disorders involving the gastrointestinal tract and abdominal viscera, the member shall be individually evaluated for the likelihood of inadequate nutrition, a propensity for symptomatic dehydration, anemia, or incapacitating pain syndromes.

9.11.3 Where the following GI disorders result in the complications defined in 9.11.2, the physician shall evaluate the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 13, and after the evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department:

- (1) Cholecystitis
- (2) Gastritis
- (3) GI bleeding
- (4) Inflammatory bowel disease or irritable bowel syndrome
- (5) Intestinal obstruction
- (6) Pancreatitis
- (7) Diverticulitis

- (8) History of gastrointestinal surgery
- (9) Gastric or other GI ulcers, including Zollinger-Ellison syndrome
- (10) Cirrhosis
- (11) Splenectomy, if healed, does not compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks. To prevent infections, Pneumovax[®] is recommended at regular intervals.
- (12) Hernias, such as the following:
 - (a) Hernias of the abdominal wall, especially inguinal and femoral hernias, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 13 due to the risk of incarceration and bowel strangulation during heavy exertion and lifting.
 - (b) Large ventral hernias have a low risk of incarceration but can weaken the abdominal wall musculature and might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, and 7.
 - (c) Umbilical hernias that are small and asymptomatic will not generally interfere with fire-fighting duties.
 - (d) Abdominal wall hernias at any site that have been surgically corrected do not prevent otherwise qualified members from safely performing essential fire-fighting tasks, provided the incision site is well healed and the surgeon has cleared the member for full lifting.

N 9.11.4 Renal Disease. Chronic kidney disease of Stage 4 or greater [glomerular filtration rate (GFR) < 1 oz/min (30 ml/min)], hemodialysis or continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.12 Medical Conditions Involving Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, Neck, or Throat.

9.12.1* Physician Evaluation.

9.12.1.1 If the member has any medical conditions involving the head, eyes, ears, nose, neck, or throat, the member shall be individually evaluated for conditions that interfere with the member's ability to comfortably wear and be protected by the fire fighter's protective ensemble and that might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 4, 5, and 13.

9.12.1.2 After the evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.12.2 Physician Guidance. When evaluating a member with medical conditions involving the head, eyes, ears, nose, neck, or throat, the physician shall consider the following:

- (1) Deformities of the skull associated with evidence of disease of the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and the inability to properly wear protective equipment.
- (2) Contraction of head and neck muscles can interfere with wearing of protective equipment, impair speech, or otherwise compromise a member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

9.12.3 Disorders of the Eyes or Vision.

9.12.3.1* Physician Evaluation. Disorders of the eyes or vision, including the following might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 6, 8, 10, or 11, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department:

- (1)* Far visual acuity worse than 20/40 in each eye corrected with contact lens or spectacles, and far visual acuity uncorrected worse than 20/100 binocular for wearers of hard contacts or spectacles.
- (2)* Monocular vision, stereopsis without fusional capacity, night blindness, or loss of peripheral vision (i.e., horizontal field of vision less than 110 degrees in each eye) compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 10.
- (3) Far visual acuity worse than 20/100 in the worse eye, corrected or uncorrected, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 10.
- (4) Peripheral vision in the horizontal meridian of less than 110 degrees in the better eye, or any condition that significantly affects peripheral vision in both eyes.
- (5) Near visual acuity less than 20/40 binocular, uncorrected or corrected.

N 9.12.3.1.1 Successful soft contact lens wearers shall not be subject to the uncorrected standard in 9.12.3.1(1) if the member has been wearing soft contact lenses for more than 6 months with good tolerance.

9.12.3.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that new monocular vision requires a minimum of 6 months for depth perception accommodation in order to safely perform other essential job tasks.

9.12.4 Abnormal Hearing.

9.12.4.1* Physician Evaluation. Abnormal hearing that impairs a member's ability to hear and understand the spoken voice under conditions of high background noise, or hear, recognize, and directionally locate cries or audible alarms, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

N 9.12.4.2* Minimum Hearing Standard. The use of hearing aids or other hearing assistive devices shall be used by members who, on audiometric testing, have an average hearing loss in the unaided better ear better than 40 decibels (dB) at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz when the audiometric device is calibrated to ANSI Z24.5, *Audiometric Device Testing*.

N 9.12.4.3 Physician Guidance.

N 9.12.4.3.1 Hearing assistive devices shall not be used during audiometric testing.

N 9.12.4.3.2 Hearing assistive devices shall be used by someone who meets 9.12.4.2.

N 9.12.4.3.3 If the device fails, the member shall still have sufficient hearing acuity to meet 9.12.4.2, the minimum hearing standard.

9.12.5 Vertigo, Ataxia, or Disturbance of Gait and Balance.

9.12.5.1* Physician Evaluation. Any condition causing chronic or recurring vertigo, ataxia, or other disturbance of

gait and balance compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 8, 10, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.12.6 Nose, Nasopharynx, Oropharynx, or Dental Structures.

9.12.6.1* Physician Evaluation. Any deformity or disease of the nose, nasopharynx, oropharynx, or dental structures, including anosmia and sinusitis, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.12.6.2* Physician Guidance. Obstructive sleep apnea, if not properly treated, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13* Neurologic Disorders.

9.13.1 Neurologic disorders shall refer to ongoing, chronic, or recurrent disorders that impair an individual's neurological functions, including central regulation, cognitive abilities, strength, perception, reflexes, coordination, gait, and equilibrium.

9.13.2 If the member has any neurologic disorder that significantly impairs the member's neurologic functions, including central regulation, cognitive abilities, strength, perception, reflexes, coordination, gait, and equilibrium, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.13.3 through 9.13.11 to determine if the disorders compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.13.3 Ataxias.

9.13.3.1 Physician Evaluation. Ataxias of the hereditary or degenerative type compromise a member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.4 Cerebrovascular Disease.

9.13.4.1* Physician Evaluation. Cerebrovascular disease as evidenced by documented episodes of focal, reversible, or neurological impairment might interfere with the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.4.1.1 Cerebrovascular disease as evidenced by documented episodes of focal, reversible, or neurological impairment, if irreversible, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) At least 12 months since last transient ischemic attack, if risk factors are controlled and member is treated with an antiplatelet agent
- (2) At least 12 months since last ischemic stroke (or longer, depending on estimated risk of seizure)

- (3) No decreased sensation or weakness that interferes with essential job tasks
- (4) No physical or cognitive limitations that interfere with essential job tasks

9.13.4.1.2 Cerebrovascular disease as evidenced by documented episodes of focal, reversible, or neurological impairment, if requiring anticoagulation treatment, compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 8, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.5 Neuromuscular, Demyelinating, and Other Progressive Neurologic Diseases.

9.13.5.1* Physician Evaluation. Neuromuscular, demyelinating, and other progressive neurologic diseases compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department, unless the member is free of clinical disease for 3 years and annual evaluation by a specialist concludes that cognitive function and neurologic exam are normal and the member is on no drugs that can impair job function.

9.13.5.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that this category refers to but is not limited to multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, muscular dystrophies, Huntington's chorea, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and bulbar palsy.

9.13.6 Single Unprovoked Seizure and Epileptic Conditions.

9.13.6.1* Physician Evaluation. Single unprovoked seizure and epileptic conditions, including simple, partial complex, generalized, and psychomotor seizure disorders, compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department unless the member meets all of the following provisions:

- (1) No seizures for the most recent consecutive 5 years after single unprovoked seizure.
- (2) No seizures for the most recent consecutive 10 years if the applicant was diagnosed with epilepsy.
- (3) Currently on a stable regimen of antiepileptic drugs for the most recent 5 years, or on no antiepileptic drugs for the most recent 5 years.
- (4) Neurological examination is normal.
- (5) Brain MRI is normal.
- (6) Awake and asleep EEG studies with photic stimulation and hyperventilation are normal.

9.13.7 History of Cerebral Vascular Bleeding.

9.13.7.1* Physician Evaluation. Cerebral vascular bleeding compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following criteria are met:

- (1) The cause of bleeding is surgically corrected (when indicated).
- (2) Physical exam, including blood pressure, is normal.
- (3) Studies (e.g., imaging and EEG) are normal off antiepileptic drugs.

- (4) There has been at least 12 months since last hemorrhagic stroke or subarachnoid hemorrhage or longer, depending on the estimated risk of seizure.
- (5) There is no decreased sensation or weakness that interferes with essential job tasks.
- (6) There are no physical or cognitive limitations that interfere with essential job tasks.

9.13.8 Head Trauma.

9.13.8.1* Physician Evaluation. Head trauma including concussion, brain contusion, subarachnoid hemorrhage, subdural, and/or epidural hematoma might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.8.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider having the member evaluated and cleared to return to duty by a qualified neurosurgeon or neurologist following significant head trauma.

9.13.9 CNS Tumors.

9.13.9.1 Physician Evaluation. CNS tumors, depending on their location and the size of the mass, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.9.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that after successful resection of a CNS tumor a member can safely return to duty with a neurosurgeon's certification if exam and imaging studies are normal (except for surgical site) and EEG shows no epileptic activity off all anti-convulsant medications.

9.13.9.2.1 Where applicable, metastatic workup shall be negative.

9.13.10 Parkinson's and Other Diseases with Tremor.

9.13.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Parkinson's and other diseases with functionally significant tremor or abnormal gait or balance compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.13.10.2 Physician Guidance.

9.13.10.2.1 The physician shall evaluate gait, balance, movement, and medications required to maintain function.

9.13.10.2.2 The impact of the operational environment including heat, hazards, stress, and exertion shall be considered and specifically addressed.

9.13.11 Progressive Dementia.

9.13.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Progressive dementia (e.g., Alzheimer's) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

N 9.13.12 Narcolepsy. Narcolepsy with cataplexy or narcolepsy with persistent excessive daytime sleepiness despite medical treatment compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job task 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.14* Psychiatric and Psychological Disorders.

9.14.1 Psychiatric and psychological disorders shall include acute, ongoing, chronic, or recurrent disorders that impair psychological or emotional function.

9.14.2 Specific Psychiatric Disorders.

N 9.14.2.1 An anxiety disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (2) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (3) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (4) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.2 Bipolar disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (2) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (3) Ongoing evaluation by a health care provider (after return to work)
- (4) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (5) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (6) No manic episodes in the past 12 months
- (7) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.3 A depressive disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (2) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (3) Ongoing evaluation by a health care provider (after return to work)
- (4) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (5) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (6) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.4 Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (2) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (3) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (4) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.5 A delusional disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) No psychotic symptoms in the past 6 months
- (2) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (3) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (4) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (5) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (6) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.6 Brief psychotic disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) No psychotic symptoms in the past 6 months
- (2) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (3) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (4) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (5) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (6) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.7 Schizophreniform disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) No psychotic symptoms in the past 6 months
- (2) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (3) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (4) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (5) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.8 Schizophrenia might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a psychiatrist or a licensed doctoral-level psychologist before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all following conditions are met:

- (1) No psychotic symptoms in the past 6 months
- (2) Compliance with treatment, if indicated
- (3) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (4) Treatment of comorbidities (including substance abuse and sleep disorders)
- (5) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (6) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

N 9.14.2.9 Schizoaffective disorder might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation by a qualified mental health provider before the member returns to work, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department unless all following conditions are met:

- (1) No disqualifying side effects from treatment
- (2) No manic episodes in the past 12 months
- (3) No suicide attempts in the past 12 months
- (4) Evaluation that the member's condition does not interfere with the safe performance of his/her duties

9.15* Substance Abuse.

9.15.1 Substance abuse shall refer to the frequent and/or persistent use of alcohol or other substances causing the following:

- (1) Failure to fulfill major obligations either at work or at home
- (2) Verifiable physical or emotional harm to the member
- (3) Recurrent legal problems
- (4) Exacerbation of social and/or other interpersonal problems

9.15.2 If the member has any substance abuse problem, the member shall be referred for counseling/treatment and individually evaluated in accordance with 9.15.3 through 9.15.4 to determine if the problem compromises the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.15.3 DSM 5 Criteria.

9.15.3.1 Physician Evaluation. Substance abuse disorder according to DSM 5 criteria compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.15.3.2 Physician Guidance.

9.15.3.2.1 The physician shall use medical evaluations, supervisory evaluations, and/or performance evaluations coupled with urine screening and blood toxicology to form a basis for determining and documenting substance abuse.

9.15.3.2.2 Although there is a high recidivism rate with treatment, members shall be offered counseling/treatment because substance abuse disorder is a treatable illness.

9.15.4 Methadone Maintenance.

9.15.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Methadone maintenance interferes with cognitive functions, energy, coordination, and equilibrium of the member, and therefore compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, and 11, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16 Medications.

9.16.1 Medications shall include prescribed and over-the-counter medications.

9.16.2 When evaluating a member, the physician shall recognize that the medications in Section 9.16 are listed because of noteworthy side effects that might interfere with the performance of essential job tasks.

9.16.3 If the member is taking medications, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.16.4 through 9.16.12 to determine if the medications compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.16.4 Anticoagulation.

9.16.4.1 Physician Evaluation. Full-dose or low-dose anticoagulation or any drugs that prolong prothrombin time, partial thromboplastin time, or international normalized ratio (INR) compromise the member's ability to perform essential job task 8 due to the risk of internal bleeding from trauma with potential for rapid incapacitation from shock or central nervous system hemorrhage, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.5 Narcotics.

9.16.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Narcotics compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 due to alterations in mental status including vigilance, judgment, and other neurologic functions, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.6 Muscle Relaxants.

9.16.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Muscle relaxants compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 due to alterations in mental status and other neurologic functions, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.7 Sedatives and Hypnotics.

9.16.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Sedatives and hypnotics (including benzodiazepines, dronabinol, and medical marijuana) compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 due to alterations in mental status, vigilance, judgment, and other neurologic functions, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.8 Psychiatric Medications.

9.16.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Psychiatric medications might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5, 8, 11, and 13 due to increased risk of heat stress, movement disorders, and somnolence, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.9 Anti-Hypertensive Agents.

9.16.9.1 Physician Evaluation. Certain classes of anti-hypertensive agents (e.g., beta-blockers, high-dose diuretics, and central agents such as clonidine) might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5 and 8 due to risk for dehydration, electrolyte disorders, lethargy, and disequilibrium, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.9.2 Physician Guidance. If the member is on beta-blockers, high-dose diuretics, or central agents such as clonidine, the physician shall refer the member back to his/her physician for consideration of a change in anti-hypertensive medications.

9.16.9.2.1 Once stable off these medications, the member shall be medically re-evaluated for duty.

9.16.9.2.2 Calcium channel blockers shall be acceptable as anti-hypertensive medications, but if used for other cardiac reasons, refer to Section 9.4.

9.16.10 High-Dose Corticosteroids.

9.16.10.1 Physician Evaluation. High-dose corticosteroids for chronic disease compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5 and 8 due to the underlying disease or the risk for dehydration, electrolyte disorders, myopathy, altered sensorium, and/or lethargy, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.10.2 Physician Guidance. If the member is on systemic corticosteroids, other than high-dose corticosteroids, the physician shall refer the member back to his/her physician for consideration of the underlying disease that might compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.16.11 Anabolic Steroids.

9.16.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Anabolic steroids compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 due to alterations in mental status including vigilance, judgment, and other neurologic functions, and the physician shall report the applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.12 Other Medications.

9.16.12.1 Physician Evaluation. The physician shall evaluate the member to determine if other medications might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 5, 8, 11, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.16.12.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that the member might require careful evaluation for increased risk of heat stress and other side effects of certain medications (e.g., MAOIs, phenothiazines, anti-cholinergics, tricyclic antidepressants), and shall ensure specialized annual follow-up of members taking these medications.

9.17 Tumors — Malignant or Benign.

9.17.1 Malignant conditions of any organ system can produce specific organ dysfunction or generalized debilitation.

9.17.2 When evaluating a member, the physician shall recognize that malignancy or its treatment can result in anemia, malnutrition, pain, and generalized weakness, temporarily or permanently compromising the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13.

9.17.3 If the member has tumor, whether malignant or benign, the member shall be individually evaluated in accordance with 9.17.4 through 9.17.12 to determine if the tumors compromise the member's ability to safely perform the essential job tasks.

9.17.4 Benign Tumors.

9.17.4.1 Physician Evaluation. A benign tumor, depending on its location, might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and after further eval-

uation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.4.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that benign tumors will compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13 only if the space-occupying lesion and/or its treatment affects energy levels or the involved organ system's function.

9.17.5 Acute Illness Related to Malignancy or Its Treatment.

9.17.5.1 Physician Evaluation. Acute illness related to malignancy or its treatment might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.5.2 Physician Guidance. The physician shall consider that acute illness related to malignancy or its treatment compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 13 if low energy levels, anemia, weight loss, or specific aspects of that organ's dysfunction lead to debilitation.

9.17.6 Central Nervous System Tumors.

9.17.6.1 Physician Evaluation. Central nervous system tumors might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.6.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.6.2.1 When evaluating the member for central nervous system tumors, the physician shall consider that central nervous system tumors compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 if low energy levels, anemia, undernutrition, weight loss, and specific organ dysfunction (seizures, loss of balance, inability to communicate, inability to process complicated commands in an emergency situation, weakness) are present or lead to a debilitated state affecting anaerobic and aerobic job tasks and the ability to wear personal protective ensembles and SCBA.

9.17.6.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that the exam is normal, imaging studies are normal (except for surgical site), and seizures have not occurred in the absence of anticonvulsant medications, and there is no further evidence of malignancy.

9.17.7 Head and Neck Malignancies.

9.17.7.1 Physician Evaluation. Head and neck malignancies might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.7.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.7.2.1 When evaluating the member for head and neck malignancies, the physician shall consider that head and neck malignancies compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1 through 13 if low energy levels,

anemia, undernutrition, weight loss, inability to clear oral secretions, or other specific organ dysfunction interfere with respiration, communication, hydration, and/or eating.

9.17.7.2.2 If treated successfully, a member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist, who must certify that exam shows normal function, imaging studies show no tumor, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that might compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.17.8 Lung Cancer.

9.17.8.1 Physician Evaluation. Lung cancer might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 13, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.8.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.8.2.1 When evaluating the member for lung cancer, the physician shall consider that lung cancer compromises the member's ability to safely perform job tasks if low energy levels, anemia, undernutrition, weight loss, weakness, paraneoplastic syndromes, or specific organ dysfunction (abnormal secretions, dyspnea, or pulmonary dysfunction interfering with or prohibiting use of SCBA or strenuous physical activities) are present.

9.17.8.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that the member has normal function, imaging studies show no tumor, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that might compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.17.9 Gastrointestinal Malignancies.

9.17.9.1 Gastrointestinal malignancies might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.9.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.9.2.1 When evaluating the member for gastrointestinal malignancies, the physician shall consider that gastrointestinal malignancies compromise the member's ability to safely perform job tasks if low energy levels, anemia, undernutrition, weight loss, weakness, paraneoplastic syndromes, or specific organ dysfunction (abnormal secretions or bowel function interfering with or prohibiting prolonged use of personal protective clothing or prohibiting strenuous physical activities) are present.

9.17.9.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that exam and gastrointestinal functioning appear to be normal (including nutrition intake and excretion), imaging studies show no tumor, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that could compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.17.10 Genitourinary Malignancies.

9.17.10.1 Physician Evaluation. Genitourinary malignancies might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.10.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.10.2.1 When evaluating the member with a history of genitourinary malignancy, the physician shall consider that genitourinary malignancies compromise the member's ability to safely perform job tasks if altered urinary function prevents prolonged activity without use of toilet facilities or if the underlying tumor has produced low energy levels, anemia, undernutrition, weight loss, or specific organ dysfunction.

9.17.10.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that exam is normal (including nutrition intake and excretion), imaging studies show no tumor, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that might compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.17.11 Hematologic or Lymphatic Malignancies.

9.17.11.1 Physician Evaluation. Hematologic or lymphatic malignancies might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.11.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.11.2.1 When evaluating the member for hematologic or lymphatic malignancies, the physician shall consider that hematologic or lymphatic malignancies (e.g., leukemias, lymphomas) compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9 if anemia, lymphopenia, or thrombocytopenia is present or if adverse effects of treatment are present.

9.17.11.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that exam is normal, imaging and laboratory studies show no cancer, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that could compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.17.12 Skin Cancer.

9.17.12.1 Physician Evaluation. Skin cancer might compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9, and after further evaluation and a final medical determination of the member's condition, the physician shall report any applicable job limitations to the fire department.

9.17.12.2 Physician Guidance.

9.17.12.2.1 When evaluating the member for skin cancer, the physician shall consider that skin cancer that requires significant resection, chemotherapy or other systemic anti-neoplastic therapy, or that results in the loss of skin integrity, compromises the member's ability to safely perform job tasks because of low energy levels, anemia, undernutrition, and weight loss, as well as increased risk of burns, infection, dehydration, and heat rash while fire fighting and wearing PPE.

9.17.12.2.2 If treated successfully, the member shall undergo evaluation by a specialist who must certify that exam is normal, imaging and laboratory studies show no cancer, and overall medical evaluation reveals no condition that could compromise safe performance of essential job tasks.

9.18 Pregnancy and Reproductive Health.

9.18.1 Fire Departments shall make available to all male and female fire fighters educational materials outlining the risks from fire fighting on reproductive health.

9.18.2* It is recommended that members who become pregnant report the pregnancy immediately to the fire department physician. Once informed of the pregnancy the fire department physician shall inform the pregnant member of the numerous hazards to the pregnancy and the fetus encountered during routine fire fighting tasks.

9.18.2.1 If the member requests an alternative duty assignment in an environment deemed safe for the pregnancy and the fetus, the physician shall provide appropriate restrictions for essential job tasks 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 that are unsafe for her or her fetus.

9.18.3 During later stages of pregnancy the member will eventually be unable to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 due to issues with diminished aerobic capacity, balance, speed, and agility. As with any other member, when performance due to medical issues is of concern, the AHJ shall inform the fire department physician and a medical evaluation will be performed to determine the need for restricting the member from those activities that they are not able to safely perform.

Annex A Explanatory Material

Annex A is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only. This annex contains explanatory material, numbered to correspond with the applicable text paragraphs.

A.1.1.1 Some of the medical requirements in this standard are not applicable to candidates and members whose essential job tasks within the fire department are not described in NFPA 1001, NFPA 1002, NFPA 1003, NFPA 1006, NFPA 1021, and NFPA 1051. However, particular attention must be paid to the essential job tasks of individual candidates or members when applying this standard (for example, administrative staff personnel, some EMS personnel, fire/police, and others who do not have responsibility for structural fire fighting and are not required to wear personal protective ensembles and use SCBA). Medical requirements should reflect essential job tasks, and all might not be specifically addressed in this standard. (See also Chapter 5 and Chapter 9.)

A.1.2.2 A direct relationship exists between the medical requirements and the job description of members. The job description should include all essential job functions of members, both emergency and nonemergency. Members perform a variety of emergency operations including fire fighting, emergency medical care, hazardous materials mitigation, driving/operating fire apparatus, and special operations. Non-emergency duties can include, but are not limited to, training, station and vehicle maintenance, and physical fitness. Each fire department needs to identify and develop a written job description for members.

A.1.3.2 The specific determination of the authority having jurisdiction depends on the mechanism under which this standard is adopted and enforced. Where this standard is adopted voluntarily by a jurisdiction fire department for its own use, the authority having jurisdiction should be the fire chief or the

political entity that is responsible for the operation of the fire department. Where this standard is legally adopted and enforced by a body having regulatory authority over a fire department, such as federal, state, or local government or political subdivision, this body is responsible for making those determinations as the authority having jurisdiction. The compliance program should take into account the services the fire department is required to provide, the financial resources available to the fire department, the availability of personnel, the availability of trainers, and such other factors as will affect the fire department's ability to achieve compliance.

A.1.3.3 The most vital resource of any fire department is its members. This standard is to be implemented in a process aimed at improving member health and wellness. Due to the hazardous nature of the occupation, methods to reduce the risk of occupational injury, illness, and exposures to communicable diseases are warranted. Annual reports repeatedly indicate over 100 line-of-duty deaths and 100,000 occupational injuries and illnesses among career and volunteer fire fighters. Another concern is the fire fighters who experience disabling injuries or develop occupational diseases and conditions, which often have debilitating or fatal results, forcing them to leave their fire service activities. There is an increased risk of respiratory and heart disease in fire fighters and strong evidence of a link to some cancers and other conditions related to occupational exposures to carcinogens, toxic products of combustion, and hazardous materials.

Safety and health are two of the many components of the risk management process. The intent of this standard is to reduce the risk and burden of fire service occupational morbidity and mortality while improving the welfare of fire fighters. By implementing the medical requirements of this standard, a fire department commits to a process that evaluates and enhances the health and fitness for duty of members.

A.3.2.1 Approved. The National Fire Protection Association does not approve, inspect, or certify any installations, procedures, equipment, or materials; nor does it approve or evaluate testing laboratories. In determining the acceptability of installations, procedures, equipment, or materials, the authority having jurisdiction may base acceptance on compliance with NFPA or other appropriate standards. In the absence of such standards, said authority may require evidence of proper installation, procedure, or use. The authority having jurisdiction may also refer to the listings or labeling practices of an organization that is concerned with product evaluations and is thus in a position to determine compliance with appropriate standards for the current production of listed items.

A.3.2.2 Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). The phrase "authority having jurisdiction," or its acronym AHJ, is used in NFPA documents in a broad manner, since jurisdictions and approval agencies vary, as do their responsibilities. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a federal, state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction. In many circumstances, the property owner or his or her designated agent assumes the role of the authority having jurisdiction;

at government installations, the commanding officer or departmental official may be the authority having jurisdiction.

• **A.3.3.7 Fire Department.** The term *fire department* can include any public, governmental, private, industrial, or military organization engaging in this type of activity. [1002, 2017]

A.3.3.18 Member. A fire department member can be a full-time or part-time employee or a paid or unpaid volunteer; can occupy any position or rank within the fire department, and can engage in emergency operations. [1500, 2013]

A.4.1.2.1 Fire departments can require candidates to provide some form of medical clearance for candidate participation in pre-employment physical strength and agility tests. When there is such a requirement, the medical clearance forms should enumerate the tasks that the candidate will be asked to safely perform during the test.

■ **A.4.1.3** The physician plays a central role in all medical aspects of the Wellness Fitness Initiative (WFI). The following parameters should be considered in selecting a physician for this program:

- (1) The provider has experience in occupational medicine, including wellness and fitness health components related to fire fighting.
- (2) The provider is board-eligible or board-certified in a relevant specialty, such as emergency, family, internal, or occupational medicine.
- (3) The provider has experience in coordinating referrals to a variety of medical specialties for care of occupational injuries, cancer, cardiac and pulmonary issues, behavioral issues, and other health problems affecting fire fighters.
- (4) The provider should also be familiar with data collection, risk management, and environmental conditions relevant to Labor/Management Wellness Fitness Initiatives.

This standard contains a number of options that fire departments can implement to increase physician knowledge regarding fire fighter occupational hazards and their management. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Providing the physician with an overview of all fire fighter essential job tasks and current job descriptions, as well as an outline of the types and levels of service provided by the department
- (2) Allow opportunities (e.g., participation in a ride along, presence at fire scenes) for the physician to better understand the physiological and psychological demands of fire fighters, their work conditions and environments, and their PPE requirements, though this might be difficult if the position is contracted out to a health care company
- (3) Ensuring that the physician has a thorough working knowledge of this standard and is actively engaged in the health and safety, behavioral health, rehabilitation, and wellness and fitness programs in their fire department
- (4) Ensuring that the physician remains current in the medical literature pertaining to the fire service and consensus clinical practice with relevant Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits

A.4.1.4 This physician should also have experience with running an occupational medicine program for public safety workers, preferably fire fighters.

▲ **A.4.1.7** The fire department should provide the fire department physician with a representative list of essential job tasks for members of fire departments who wear personal protective

ensembles and SCBA to conduct fire-fighting operations. The tasks on this list should be verified by the fire department to be essential to the job under consideration for each individual candidate or member. A sample list based on NFPA 1001, NFPA 1002, NFPA 1003, NFPA 1006, NFPA 1021, and NFPA 1051 is provided in 5.1.1 and Section 9.1. An effective way to transmit this information to the physician is to use the list with checkboxes in front of each essential job task. This list is taken by a candidate or member to the medical provider at the time of medical evaluation. A check in the box indicates that there is no medical reason why an individual cannot safely perform that particular essential job task.

A.4.1.13.1 Suggested fields (data points) include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- (1) Medical history including the following:
 - (a) Date of exam
 - (b) Medical history
 - (c) Smoking history
 - (d) Tobacco (smokeless) use
 - (e) Smoking in the past year
 - (f) Tobacco cessation program participation
 - (g) Alcohol use
 - (h) Family history of heart disease or cancer
 - (i) Personal history of past disease, disorders, or cancer
 - (j) Exercise history
- (2) Current medical and fitness results including the following:
 - (a) Blood pressure and heart rate
 - (b) ICD10 codes for physician assessment
 - (c) Height and weight
 - (d) Body composition (local recording only)
 - (e) Blood analysis results
 - (f) Urinalysis results
 - (g) Vision
 - (h) Hearing
 - (i) Spirometry
 - (j) Chest x-ray
 - (k) Resting electrocardiogram
 - (l) Cancer screening results
 - (m) Immunizations
 - (n) Aerobic capacity results
 - (o) Muscle strength results
 - (p) Muscle endurance results
 - (q) Flexibility results

▲ **A.4.2.6** Incident scene rehabilitation is an important component of incident scene management that protects the health and safety of fire department members. NFPA 1500, and NFPA 1561, require the establishment of “rehab” during incident scene operations. A significant component of member rehabilitation is ongoing medical evaluation. The standard does not require the fire department physician to be at every incident but does require that the physician coordinate with the EMS medical director to provide protocols for medical evaluation and management of members in emergency incident rehab. This medical planning process ensures optimal medical support for members at the scene and should include criteria for transportation to a medical facility for additional evaluation and treatment. Fire departments can develop specific standard operating procedures establishing conditions under which fire department physician(s) are dispatched to emergency incidents. (See NFPA 1584.)

A.4.4.1 Confidentiality of all medical data is critical to the success of the program. Members need to feel assured that the information provided to the physician will not be inappropriately shared.

Δ A.5.1.1(1) A member, while wearing full protective clothing (turnout coat and pants, helmet, boots, and gloves) and SCBA, is required to safely perform a variety of fire-fighting tasks that require upper body strength and aerobic capacity. For those not familiar with fire suppression, the following specific details inherent to the activities in essential job task 1 are offered:

- (1) Lifting and carrying tools and equipment (e.g., axe, halligan tool, pike pole, chain saw, circular saw, rabbit tool, high-rise pack, and hose) that weigh between 7 lb and 20 lb (3.2 kg and 9 kg) and are used in a chopping motion over the head, extended in front of the body, or in a push/pull motion.
- (2) Advancing a 1¼ in. (45 mm) or a 2½ in. (65 mm) diameter hose line, which requires lifting, carrying, and pulling the hose at grade, below or above grade, or up ladders. In addition to the weight of the hose itself, a 50 ft (15 m) section of charged 1¼ in. (45 mm) hose contains approximately 90 lb (41 kg) of water, and a 50 ft (15 m) section of 2½ in. (65 mm) hose holds approximately 130 lb (59 kg) of water.
- (3) Performing forcible entry while utilizing tools and equipment (e.g., axe, halligan tool, chain saw, circular saw, or rabbit tool) that requires chopping, pulling, or operating these items to open doors, windows, or other barriers to gain access to victims or possible victims or to initiate fire-fighting operations.
- (4) Performing ventilation (horizontal or vertical) utilizing tools and equipment (e.g., axe, circular saw, chain saw, pike pole) while operating on a flat or pitched roof or operating off a ground or aerial ladder. This task requires the fire fighter to chop or push tools through roofs, walls, or windows.

Other tasks that could be performed can include search and rescue operations and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions, including working in extremely hot and cold environments for prolonged time periods.

A.6.1.1 The medical history should include the candidate's known health problems, such as major illnesses, surgeries, medication use, and allergies. Symptom review is also important for detecting early signs of illness. A medical history should also include a personal health history, a **health** habit history, an immunization history, and a reproductive history.

An occupational history should also be obtained to collect information about the **person's** past occupational and environmental exposures.

Δ A.6.1.2 Physical examination should include the following:

- (1) **Checking vital signs** [temperature, pulse, respiratory rate, and blood pressure (BP)]
- (2) Head, eyes, ears, nose, and throat **exams**
- (3) Neck **exam**
- (4) Cardiovascular **exam**
- (5) Pulmonary **exam**
- (6) Breast **exam**
- (7) Gastrointestinal **exam** (includes rectal exam for mass, occult blood)
- (8) Genitourinary **exam** (includes pap smear, testicular exam, rectal exam for prostate mass)

- (9) **Checking for hernias**
- (10) Lymph nodes exam
- (11) Neurological exam
- (12) Musculoskeletal exam
- (13) **Checking the skin** (includes screening for cancers)
- (14) Vision testing

BP should be measured according to the seven recommendations of the *Seventh Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure* (JNC 7). BP should be measured with a properly calibrated and validated instrument. Patients should be seated quietly in a chair for at least 5 minutes, with their feet on the floor and the arm supported at heart level. appropriately sized cuff (cuff bladder encircling at least 80 percent of the arm) should be used to ensure accuracy, and at least two measurements should be made. Systolic BP is the point at which the first of two or more sounds is heard (phase 1), and diastolic BP is the point before the disappearance of sounds (phase 5).

Laboratory tests on candidates should include the following:

- (1) Blood tests, including the following:
 - (a) CBC with differential, RBC indices and morphology, and platelet count
 - (b) Electrolytes (Na, K, Cl, HCO₃, or CO₂)
 - (c) Renal function (BUN, creatinine)
 - (d) Glucose
 - (e) Liver function tests (ALT, AST, direct and indirect bilirubin, alkaline phosphatase)
 - (f) Total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, clinically useful lipid ratios (e.g., percent LDL), and triglycerides
- (2) Urinalysis, with a dipstick test for glucose, ketones, leukocyte esterase, protein, blood, and bilirubin.
- (3) Audiology. Hearing assessed in each ear at each of the following frequencies: 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, 3000 Hz, 4000 Hz, 6000 Hz, and 8000 Hz. Results should be corrected for age as permitted by OSHA. Baseline audiometry is performed in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.95, "Occupational Noise Exposure." The basics of this standard include the following:
 - (a) The first audiogram (for members, this will probably be done during their pre-placement exam) is the baseline audiogram.
 - (b) If a subsequent audiogram is better than the baseline, then that becomes the baseline. All audiograms should be done with no exposure to industrial noise for the preceding 14 hours.
- (4) Spirometry. Pulmonary function testing (spirometry) is conducted to measure the member's forced vital capacity (FVC), forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁), and the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio. FEV₁ and FVC results will be expressed as the absolute value (liters or milliliters) and as percent predicted adjusted for gender, age, height, and ethnicity using NHANES III normative equations, with the acceptable threshold being 80 percent predicted. FEV₁/FVC ratio results are expressed as the absolute FEV₁ value divided by the absolute FVC value, with 0.71 as the acceptable threshold value being 0.71. However, because these norms are population-based, it is possible for individuals to be normal just below these thresholds or to have minimal but potentially significant abnormalities just above these thresholds. When percent predicted FEV₁ or FVC values are minimally below threshold (typically 74 percent to 79 percent of predicted), the lower limits of normal (LLN) for the appropriate population

can, at the discretion of the physician, be used instead of the 80 percent predicted threshold value. For example, the LLN might be more appropriate for taller and older individuals. (See F.2.5.)

- (5) Chest radiography (chest x-ray posterior-anterior and lateral views).
- (6) A resting 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG). A resting 12-lead ECG.
- (7) Immunizations and infectious disease screening. The following infectious disease immunizations or infectious disease screenings are to be provided, as indicated:
 - (a) Tuberculosis screen, purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin skin test, or blood test.
 - (b) Hepatitis C virus screen (baseline)
 - (c) Hepatitis B virus vaccinations
 - (d) Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (TDAP) vaccine (booster every 10 years)
 - (e) Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine
 - (f) Polio vaccine given to uniformed personnel if vaccination or disease is not documented
 - (g) Hepatitis A vaccine due to contaminated water exposures during normal firefighting activities, not just hazmat/rescue activities
 - (h) Varicella vaccine, offered to all nonimmune personnel
 - (i) Influenza vaccine, seasonal and novel, offered to all personnel

A.6.3.1.2(1) Deformities of the skull can result in the member's inability to properly wear protective equipment.

A.6.3.1.2(2) These deformities can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation, the inability to properly wear protective equipment, and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.3.1.2(3) Loss of or congenital absence of the bony substance of the skull can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.3.2.2(1) Thoracic outlet syndrome can result in frequent episodes of pain or inability to safely perform work.

A.6.3.2.2(2) Congenital cysts, chronic draining fistulas, or similar lesions can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.3.2.2(3) The contraction of neck muscles can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to safely perform functions as a member due to limitation of flexibility.

A.6.4.1(1) Far visual acuity is at least 20/30 binocular, corrected with contact lenses or spectacles. Far visual acuity uncorrected is at least 20/40 binocular for wearers of hard contacts or spectacles. Successful long-term soft contact lens wearers (i.e., 6 months without a problem) are not subject to the uncorrected standard. Inadequate far visual acuity can result in the failure to be able to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.4.1(2) This does not refer to abnormal color perception such as red/green color blindness.

Persons with severe color vision loss will likely fail the acuity requirement. Formerly, color vision deficiency was listed as a

Category B medical condition. However, it is felt that within most cases this condition will not affect the ability of a member to safely perform the essential functions of his or her job. The fire service physician should consider the color vision deficiency of the individual and consider the color vision requirements of the member's job and reach an individual determination.

A.6.4.1(3) A DOT/CDL exemption can be applied for after passing a special test. But this exemption is not applicable to fire fighters because this exemption specifically excludes the driving of vehicles with passengers (e.g., fire trucks) and does not apply to emergency response driving.

A.6.4.2(1) These diseases of the eye can result in the failure to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.4.2(2) Sufficient time (approximately 2 weeks for radial keratotomy and Lasik-type surgeries, and 3 months for retinal detachment) must have passed to allow stabilization of visual acuity and to ensure that there are no post-surgical complications. These ophthalmological procedures can result in the failure to be able to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.5 Currently, no hearing tests will allow the fire department physician to accurately predict whether the fire fighter will adequately be able to safely perform essential job duties. Job-specific hearing tests should be individualized for each department and its specific job functions. The following list of hearing-specific tasks can assist in direct development of hearing protocols:

- (1) Understanding spoken commands, both over the radio and while wearing SCBA
- (2) Hearing alarm signals, including building evacuation, low air alarm on the SCBA, and PASS alarms
- (3) Hearing and locating the source of calls for assistance from victims or other fire fighters

All of these tasks will need to be performed with reasonably simulated incident scene background noise and SCBA noise. The inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise can lead to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations. (See 5.1.1.)

- **A.6.5.2(1)** Unequal hearing can result in the inability to localize sounds, leading to failure in the ability to safely perform search and rescue and other localization tasks.

A.6.5.2(4) Severe external otitis — that is, recurrent loss of hearing — can result in the inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise, leading to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.5.2(5) Severe agenesis or traumatic deformity of the auricle can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise, leading to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.5.2(6) Severe mastoiditis or surgical deformity of the mastoid can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise, leading to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.5.2(7) Ménière's syndrome or severe labyrinthitis can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and the inability to safely perform job functions due to limitations of balance.

A.6.5.2(8) Otitis media (chronic) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise, leading to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations.

A.6.6.2(1) Diseases of the jaws or associated tissues can result in the inability to communicate effectively and/or to properly wear protective equipment.

A.6.6.2(2) The wearing of orthodontic appliances can result in the inability to communicate effectively and/or to properly wear protective equipment.

A.6.6.2(3) Extensive loss of oral tissues can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.6.2(4) This condition can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.7.1(1) A tracheostomy results in the inability to properly wear protective equipment, the inability to safely perform job functions due to limitations of endurance, and the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.7.1(2) Aphonia can result in the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.7.2(1) A congenital or acquired deformity can result in the inability to properly wear protective equipment.

A.6.7.2(2) Allergic rhinitis can result in frequent episodes of pain, the inability to safely perform work, and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.7.2(4) Recurrent sinusitis can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance and the inability to safely wear SCBA from facial pain, sinus congestion and/or coughing.

A.6.7.2(5) Severe dysphonia can result in the inability to communicate effectively due to oropharyngeal dysfunction.

A.6.7.2(9) Untreated obstructive sleep apnea is associated with fatigue, cognitive defects, pulmonary hypertension, hypertrophic heart disease, arrhythmias, and early onset dementia. These issues can reduce the ability to perform all essential job tasks. Risk factors for developing obstructive sleep apnea include male gender, increased body mass index (BMI), short/wide neck, and/or narrow throat. Screening questionnaires, such as the Berlin Questionnaire (assessing snoring, fatigue, obesity, and hypertension) can be used to determine those who require formal sleep testing. In those with obstructive sleep apnea, additional testing is required to determine the level of positive pressure (CPAP or BIPAP) required to overcome the obstruction. Compliance with treatment can be assessed using home monitoring devices attached to the CPAP or BIPAP machine. Target organ damage can be screened for by cardiac echo for evidence of pulmonary hypertension or right ventricular hypertrophy.

A.6.8.1(5) An FVC or FEV₁ of less than 70 percent prevents the safe use of SCBA due to increased minute ventilation

requirements leading to the earlier than expected depletion of air in the SCBA cylinder.

A.6.8.1(6) Chronic obstructive airways disease can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance and the inability to safely wear SCBA. Obstruction is suspected when the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio (using absolute values rather than percent predicted values) is equal to or less than 0.70. However, obstruction can also occur with normal FEV₁/FVC ratios due to airtrapping or mucous plugging. For most individuals, the definition of an abnormal FEV₁ or FVC is less than 80 percent predicted adjusted for gender, age, height, and ethnicity, using NHANES III. When percent predicted FEV₁ or FVC values are just below threshold (typically 74 percent to 79 percent of predicted), the LLN for the appropriate population can, at the discretion of the physician, be used. For example, the LLN might be more appropriate for taller and older individuals. In asymptomatic individuals with minimal reductions in spirometry measures (FEV₁, FVC, or the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio), further evaluation (complete pulmonary function tests, exercise testing, or challenge testing) might be necessary to determine if essential tasks can be performed safely (*see references in Annex F*).

A.6.8.1(7) Hypoxemic disorders can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.8.1(8) The term *asthma*, or *reactive airways dysfunction syndrome*, is not meant to include acute, nonrecurring bronchitis treated with bronchodilators for a period of only days to weeks. Recurrent or persistent allergic, irritant, exertional, or other forms of asthma are included. Bronchial asthma or reactive airways disease can result in frequent unpredictable episodes of shortness of breath and the potential for sudden incapacitation, leading to the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance. Acute hyperreactivity in the fire or hazardous materials environment can induce immediate or progressive clinical asthma (bronchospasm and wheeze), which can lead to sudden incapacitation from status asthmaticus and/or resulting cardiac ischemia. True asthma is a chronic condition with a clinical history of recurrent reversible bronchospasm or long-standing, persistent reversible bronchospasm. Based on the pathophysiology of this disease, it is reasonable that exposure to smoke irritants or exertion (especially while breathing cold dry SCBA air) on the fire ground or hazardous materials environment not only can lead to acute exacerbations but can also worsen the progression of the underlying obstructive inflammatory disease. If this occurs in an environment that is immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) (e.g., interior fire suppression or certain hazardous material operations), it can have potentially devastating consequences for the member, the team, or the mission. There are no studies that support or deny that asthma in this environment can be prevented or adequately controlled by anti-inflammatory medications (inhaled corticosteroids, cromolyn, leukotriene modifiers). It is not acceptable to use or rely on bronchodilator medications for this purpose for three reasons:

- (1) Their use is for rescue after attack and not for prevention of bronchospasm in an irritant environment.
- (2) There are no studies that support or deny that their use is effective in a fire/smoke environment.

- (3) Several studies have implicated the use of beta-agonists (short- and long-acting bronchodilators) as an independent risk for sudden death and myocardial infarction in the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, and Australia. The presumed mechanism is catecholamine related, and catecholamines are already elevated while fighting fires.

A.6.8.1.1 Because the clinical definition of asthma is reversible bronchospasm, spirometry, or pulmonary function, testing performed in the absence of a clinical attack is expected to be normal and might not even show a bronchodilator response. Only if performed during an attack will spirometry or other pulmonary function tests show obstructive airway flow limitations. Therefore, in candidates who report that their bronchospasm was temporary and has resolved, spirometry should show adequate reserve (FVC and FEV₁ greater than or equal to 90 percent predicted) without significant bronchodilator response (less than 12 percent change and less than 200 mL increase) when performed off bronchodilators on the day of testing. For population studies, pulmonary function is considered normal when greater than or equal to 80 percent predicted, but for an individual with a history of asthmatic bronchospasm who is being considered for job tasks performed in a potentially irritant environment, it is reasonable diligence to require pulmonary function with a greater specificity for demonstrating adequate reserve (greater than or equal to 90 percent predicted). Challenge testing should also be performed to show no evidence for clinically significant airway hyperreactivity [i.e., to be normal or negative, there should be less than 20 percent decline in FEV₁ from baseline with cold air, methacholine (PC₂₀ greater than 8 is considered normal since response at dose greater than 8 mg might not be clinically significant), histamine, or mannitol. When challenge testing includes exercise alone, normal or negative should be less than 13 percent decline in FEV₁ from baseline]. Challenge testing should be performed off all anti-inflammatory medications (steroids and leukotriene antagonists) for 4 weeks preceding the test, off antihistamines for 1 week preceding the test, and off all bronchodilators the day of testing. Challenge testing should be performed only by an experienced specialist. It should not be performed in candidates without a history suggestive of asthma, since there is no indication for testing. It also should never be performed in candidates with abnormal pulmonary function, because these candidates have already demonstrated that they cannot safely perform essential job tasks, and further testing might induce life-threatening bronchospasm. Normal spirometry with adequate reserve, a negative challenge test [as described by the American Thoracic Society (ATS)], and no recent episode of bronchospasm off medications should be considered evidence that the candidate does not have clinically significant airway hyperactivity or asthma.

A.6.8.2(1) These conditions can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of strength or endurance and can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.8.2(3) Fibrothorax, chest wall deformity, and diaphragm abnormalities can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.8.2(4) Interstitial lung diseases can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.8.2(5) Pulmonary vascular diseases and pulmonary embolism can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.8.2(6) Bronchiectasis can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance and frequent respiratory infections.

A.6.9.1 An evaluation of aerobic capacity should be performed after appropriate medical evaluation. Testing should be conducted using an appropriate maximal or submaximal protocol (e.g., see C.2.1 and C.2.1.1). Bicycle ergometry is not appropriate because it underestimates true aerobic capacity. A low aerobic capacity can be an indicator of, and is a risk factor for, ischemic heart disease. For fire fighting, 12 METs or greater is necessary based on several studies.

A.6.10.1.1(1) Angina pectoris can result in frequent episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform essential job tasks, progressive illness leading to functional impairment, and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.1(2) Heart failure can result in frequent episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform work, progressive illness leading to functional impairment, and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.1(3) These conditions can result in frequent episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.10.1.1(4) Recurrent syncope can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.1(5) A medical condition requiring an automatic implantable cardiac defibrillator can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.1(7) If the person is pacemaker-dependent, then the risk for sudden failure due to trauma is not acceptable. Those with cardiac pacemakers can have the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.2(1) Specific recommendations include the following:

- (1) *Mitral stenosis.* Mitral stenosis is acceptable if in sinus rhythm and stenosis is mild — that is, valve area is greater than 1.5 cm² or pulmonary artery systolic pressure is less than 35 mm Hg.
- (2) *Mitral insufficiency.* Mitral insufficiency is acceptable if in sinus rhythm with normal left ventricular size and function.
- (3) *Aortic stenosis.* Aortic stenosis is acceptable if stenosis is mild — that is, mean aortic valvular pressure gradient is less than 20 mm Hg.
- (4) *Aortic regurgitation.* Aortic regurgitation is acceptable if left ventricular size is normal or slightly increased and systolic function is normal.
- (5) *Prosthetic valves.* Prosthetic valves are acceptable unless anticoagulation is in effect.

A.6.10.1.2(2) Recurrent paroxysmal tachycardia can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of strength or endurance.

A.6.10.1.2(3) These blocks will result in disqualification unless exercise can be performed with an adequate heart rate response. They can result in the inability to safely perform

essential job tasks, and have the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.2(6) Ventricular ectopy or nonsustained ventricular tachycardia can result in sudden incapacitation and the inability to safely perform job functions due to limitations of strength or endurance. Medical clearance requires the following:

- (1) An echocardiograph that shows normal function and no evidence of structural abnormalities
- (2) Stress testing with imaging to a workload of at least 12 METs off cardiac medications that shows no evidence of ischemia, ventricular tachycardia, or ventricular fibrillation. Premature ventricular contractions (PVCs) should resolve with increasing levels of exercise.

A.6.10.1.2(7) Hypertrophy of the heart can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.1.2(8) A history of a congenital abnormality that has been treated by surgery but with residual complications or that has not been treated by surgery, leaving residuals or complications, can result in frequent episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform essential job tasks and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.1.2(9) These conditions can result in the inability to safely perform job functions due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.2.1(1)(a) Uncontrolled or poorly controlled hypertension increases the risk of a sudden cardiac or cerebrovascular event. A sudden cardiac or cerebrovascular event would cause sudden incapacitation, which would interfere with the safe performance of essential job tasks. Uncontrolled or poorly controlled hypertension can be defined as the presence of end organ damage [see A.6.10.2.1(1)(b)] or stage 2 hypertension (BP systolic >160 mm Hg or BP diastolic >100 mm Hg). Individuals with stage 1 or stage 2 hypertension should be referred to their primary care physician for evaluation, lifestyle modification, and/or treatment. Patients with pre-hypertension should be counseled about appropriate lifestyle modification(s). After appropriate and successful management of stage 1 or stage 2 hypertension, a candidate can be re-evaluated after at least 1 month's time.

A.6.10.2.1(1)(b) Chronic hypertension can damage the eye (retinopathy), the kidneys (nephropathy), the vascular system (stroke, transient ischemic attack, peripheral artery disease), and the heart (left ventricular hypertrophy, heart failure). These hypertension complications are known as end organ damage. The cardiac and vascular complications are associated with an increased risk of sudden incapacitation and sudden cardiac death (Koren et al. 1991). Unfortunately, cardiac complications are frequently asymptomatic, and valid screening tests are not fast or inexpensive. Therefore, determining which candidates to screen for cardiac complications [such as ECG for left ventricular hypertrophy (LVH) or a measurement of left ventricular ejection fraction for heart failure] should be based on the severity and the duration of hypertension.

A.6.10.2.1(2) An aneurysm of the heart or major vessel, congenital or acquired, can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.10.2.1(4) Peripheral vascular disease can impair sensation, can increase the likelihood of injury, and can result in frequent

episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.2.2(2) Recurrent thrombophlebitis can result in frequent episodes of pain or the inability to safely perform essential job tasks and the inability to safely perform functions as a member due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.2.2(3) Chronic lymphedema can result in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.2.2(4) Congenital or acquired lesions of the aorta or major vessels — for example, syphilitic aortitis, demonstrable atherosclerosis that interferes with circulation, and congenital acquired dilatation of the aorta — can result in the potential for sudden incapacitation and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance.

A.6.10.2.2(5) Marked circulatory instability can result in the inability to safely perform job functions due to limitations of endurance and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of balance.

A.6.11.2(1) Cholecystitis (that which causes frequent pain due to stones or infection) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(2) Gastritis (that which causes recurrent pain and impairment) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(3) GI bleeding can cause fatigue and/or hemodynamic instability resulting in the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(4) Acute hepatitis (until resolution of acute hepatitis as determined by clinical examination and appropriate laboratory testing) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(5)(c) The member should be evaluated for persistent abnormality causing increased risk of infection and/or strangulation.

A.6.11.2(6) Inflammatory bowel disease (that which causes disabling pain or diarrhea) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks. It is a progressive illness leading to functional impairment.

A.6.11.2(7) Intestinal obstruction (that is, recent obstruction with impairment) can result in frequent episodes of pain, the inability to safely perform essential job tasks, and the potential for sudden incapacitation.

A.6.11.2(8) Pancreatitis (chronic or recurrent) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(10) A bowel resection (if frequent diarrhea precludes performance of duty) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(11) A gastrointestinal ulcer (where symptoms are uncontrolled by drugs or surgery) can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(12) The member should be evaluated for underlying disease, history of trauma, or associated infections.

A.6.11.2(13) Cirrhosis, hepatic or biliary (that which is symptomatic or in danger of bleeding), can result in frequent episodes of pain and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.11.2(14) Chronic active hepatitis can result in weakness, general malaise, and the inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

Δ A.6.12.1 Metabolic syndrome includes three or more of the following components:

- (1) Abdominal obesity, defined as a waist circumference >40 in. (>102 cm) in men, >35 in. (>88 cm) in women
- (2) Triglycerides > 150 mg/dl
- (3) HDL cholesterol <40 mg/dl for men, <50 mg/dl for women
- (4) Blood pressure >135/85 mmHg
- (5) Fasting blood glucose >110 mg/dl.

Metabolic syndrome is associated with reduced aerobic capacity that interferes with the ability to safely train to be a fire fighter and to safely perform essential job tasks 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13. Metabolic syndrome is also an increased risk for cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and insulin resistant hyperglycemia.

A.6.13.2(1) Heavy physical exertion has been associated with spontaneous abortions. Lifting heavy objects should be avoided during pregnancy. Excessive heat, toxic chemicals and catecholamine surges have the potential for fetal harm.

A.6.16.2(1) The member should be evaluated for residual instability (subluxation) or significant limitation of motion.

A.6.16.2(4) The member should be evaluated for residual instability or laxity of ligament or intra-articular arthritis, which could cause instability in limb, inadequate range of motion, or increased pain or would limit crawling, kneeling, jumping, safe ladder use, or safe stretcher carrying.

A.6.16.2(5) The member should be evaluated for residual signs or symptoms (e.g., pain, swelling, atrophy, range of motion, gait).

A.6.16.2(6) The member should be evaluated for resulting functional impairment, disease activity, and chronicity.

A.6.17.1(5) The candidate should be free of clinical disease for 3 years, a neurologic exam should be normal, and the candidate should not require drugs that can impair ability to safely perform essential job tasks. In considering performance of essential job tasks, the impact of the operational environment (e.g., heat, stress, activity, variable night shifts) on exacerbations should be considered and specifically addressed by a neurological specialist so that an informed determination can be made by the fire department's medical officer.

A.6.17.1(6) The candidate should be free of clinical disease for 3 years and off all drug and other treatment. Cognitive function, neurologic exam, and respiratory status should all be normal, and the candidate should be free of disease exacerbations for 3 years and off all drug treatment.

A.6.17.2(2) Exam and imaging studies should be normal, and medications needed to control chronic pain should not affect neurologic or cardiac function (energy, cognitive ability, equilibrium, etc.). Examples include the following:

- (1) Neuropathy (cranial, peripheral, plexus, etc.). Motor and sensory neurologic exams and diagnostic/imaging studies

(as needed) should be normal, and medications needed to control pain should not affect nervous system function (energy, cognitive ability, equilibrium, etc.).

- (2) Myopathy and/or myositis. Motor strength is normal, pain is controlled without narcotics, renal function is normal, and neither heart nor diaphragm is involved.
- (3) History of infectious myoneuropathies (e.g., Guillain-Barré, post-botulism, post-polio syndrome). Cognitive function, neurologic exam, and diagnostic imaging studies (as needed) should be normal.

A.6.18.2(1) The candidate should be evaluated for severity, chronicity, pain, likelihood of serious occupational infectious exposure, requirement for continuous medication, and impairment of ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(2) The candidate should be evaluated for thinned, stretched skin that is at risk for easy breakdown, burn damage, abnormal sensations, or infection.

A.6.18.2(3) The candidate should be evaluated for systemic involvement, skin involvement that interferes with essential job tasks, or presence of localized complications such as fissures, weeping, or ulcerations, due to risk of burn injury and/or infection.

A.6.18.2(4) The candidate should be evaluated for associated systemic lupus, skin integrity, and Raynaud's phenomenon.

A.6.18.2(5) The candidate should be evaluated for functional limitation of hand and/or foot when exposed to cold or systemic involvement of skin, muscles, heart, lungs, or neurologic system that would compromise the safe performance of essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(6) The candidate should be evaluated for sclerodactyly with significant loss of function or systemic involvement.

A.6.18.2(7) The candidate should be evaluated for associated leg swelling, loss of function, or systemic involvement.

A.6.18.2(8) The candidate should be evaluated for percent body involvement with redness and scaling, requirement for regular application of lubrication/medication, and/or potential effect on safe performance of essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(9) The candidate should be evaluated for extent, severity, chronicity, and known precipitants with attention to potential risk of serious, occupational infectious exposures or other interference with safe performance of essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(10) The candidate should be evaluated for swelling, redness, scaling, itching, weeping, and/or cracking, pain, loss of function (e.g., cannot stand for long periods of time), or ulceration.

A.6.18.2(11) The candidate should be evaluated for functional limitations, ability to wear helmet, SCBA other respirators required by the AHJ with proper fit-testing, and protective clothing, and requirements for continuous treatment.

A.6.18.2(12) The candidate should be evaluated for extent, chronicity, and interference with safe performance of essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(13) The candidate should be evaluated for extent, chronicity, pain, ability to wear protective ensemble, and risk of occupational infectious exposure.

A.6.18.2(14) The candidate should be evaluated for extent and acuity of blistering, loss of function, aggravating agent(s) if known, ability to wear protective ensemble, ability to tolerate moderate, incidental, job-related trauma to skin, risk of occupational infectious exposure, or inability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.6.18.2(15) The candidate should be evaluated for severity, chronicity, association with underlying medical condition, and requirement for medications (antihistamines) that interfere with the ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

Δ A.6.20.1(1) Type 1 diabetes was previously called insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) or juvenile-onset diabetes. Type 1 diabetes develops when the body's immune system destroys pancreatic beta cells, the only cells in the body that make the hormone insulin, which regulates blood glucose. This form of diabetes usually strikes children and young adults, although disease onset can occur at any age. Type 1 diabetes accounts for 5 percent to 10 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. In order to survive, people with Type 1 diabetes must have insulin delivered by a pump or injections.

Type 2 diabetes was previously called non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) or adult-onset diabetes. Type 2 diabetes accounts for about 90 percent to 95 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. It usually begins as insulin resistance, a disorder in which the cells do not use insulin properly. As the need for insulin rises, the pancreas gradually loses its ability to produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes is associated with older age, obesity, family history of diabetes, prior history of gestational diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, physical inactivity, and race/ethnicity. Type 2 diabetes is increasingly being diagnosed in children and adolescents. Many people with Type 2 diabetes control their blood glucose by following a careful diet and exercise program, losing excess weight, and taking oral medication. Among adults with diagnosed diabetes, about 12 percent take both insulin and oral medications, 19 percent take insulin only, 53 percent take oral medications only, and 15 percent do not take either insulin or oral medications.

Risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) remains the major concern in regard to those with diabetes being or becoming fire fighters. This risk is greatest in those with Type 1 diabetes.

In general, patients treated with oral diabetes medications are at little risk of significant hypoglycemia. Patients treated with metformin, alpha-glucosidase inhibitors, or thiazolidinediones alone or in combination with each other are at no risk of hypoglycemia, as these classes of drug do not increase insulin levels. Patients treated with sulfonylureas and related drugs have a risk of severe hypoglycemia less than 1 percent of the risk associated with insulin treatment. Patients treated with diet and exercise alone (no oral diabetes medications or insulin) are at no risk of hypoglycemia.

Fire fighting entails a unique set of conditions that need to be considered in regard to those with diabetes and the risks of hypoglycemia. Unpredictable meal schedules, periods of physical exertion, adrenergic stimulation, and sleep deprivation all present challenges to fire fighters with diabetes. There are occasions when there is no safe access to food or other forms of oral glucose while wearing respiratory protection in a hazardous environment, and the typical symptoms of hypoglycemia might not be recognized as easily in the midst of fighting a fire. As well, it is not always possible to exit a hazard zone rapidly enough to treat hypoglycemic symptoms when detected.

Members engaged in fire suppression are at greater risk than those engaged in other emergency activities (EMS, law enforcement) for this reason.

A review of current published data suggests that with careful individualized assessment it is possible to identify those with diabetes who can function fully as fire fighters and who do not present a significant risk to themselves, their fellow fire fighters, or to those they serve.

The individualized assessment process and criteria included in this standard were set up to assure that only those who are managing their diabetes conscientiously using the most up-to-date approaches would be eligible to be a fire fighter. In addition, certain patients have a greater tendency for significant hypoglycemia despite the quality of their diabetes management. Such individuals are not good candidates to be fire fighters and, accordingly, are excluded from service under the criteria in this standard.

This individualized assessment is possible in large part because a great deal of change has occurred in the treatment of diabetes in recent years. Previously patients used insulins that were somewhat unpredictable in the time course of their action and generally took two injections per day. Today, there are insulins that are far more predictable and are either very long acting and essentially treat only endogenous glucose production (and therefore do not depend on a patient eating on a regular schedule) or are very rapid and therefore can be administered directly before, during, or even shortly after one eats, significantly decreasing the chance of insulin being taken and then the meal being interrupted due to fire-fighting duties.

Regimens now referred to as “basal bolus” are composed of a very long-acting basal (or background) insulin, which controls glucose levels overnight and in the absence of glucose intake, and rapid-acting (bolus) insulins that are dosed just prior to, during, or even after meals based on blood glucose levels at that time, the amount of carbohydrate that the person expects to consume, and any anticipated change in physical activity patterns over the next number of hours.

These regimens have resulted in improved overall blood glucose control with significantly less risk of hypoglycemia for many patients.

Additional major advances in the size, speed, and sophistication of blood glucose meters provide for easy, accurate, and rapid assessment of blood glucose levels. Such monitoring techniques, as well as the generally increased self-awareness that accompanies consistent self-monitoring, enable the motivated fire fighter with diabetes to assess blood glucose levels and ingest a safety net of carbohydrates before entering a hazardous environment. Similarly, major advances in insulin delivery systems have greatly increased the ability of the motivated individual with diabetes to achieve a level of diabetes self-management consistent with the duties of fire fighting.

In order to get maximum effect from medical advances and to minimize the risk of hypoglycemia, patients with diabetes must check their blood glucose level frequently (as recommended based on factors such as type of therapy and glycemic history), review those results on a regular basis, and see their diabetes care provider regularly for discussion in regard to any necessary changes in treatment. Patient evaluation needs to look for any of the known risk factors for serious hypoglycemia

or evidence of any of the known microvascular (eye disease, kidney disease, or nerve disease) or macrovascular (cardiovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease) complications of diabetes. A 12 MET stress test is required because myocardial infarction remains the major cause of line-of-duty fatalities, and diabetes is a risk factor for myocardial ischemia, especially asymptomatic silent myocardial ischemia.

The individualized assessment described previously demands a very close and good working relationship between the patient and the diabetes care provider. The experience of those who care for current fire fighters with diabetes is that many are highly motivated and will do whatever it takes to perform their jobs at a high level and in a safe manner.

Recognizing that there is variability in the relationship between the hemoglobin A1C and the 3-month average blood glucose, we recommend that hemoglobin A1C levels greater than the 8 percent threshold in Sections 6 and 9 be confirmed by a second determination before action is taken.

The physician evaluating an individual with a hemoglobin A1C >8 percent should consider a discordance between the A1C and the 3-month average glucose if any of the following conditions exists:

- (1) A repeated value is below the threshold.
- (2) A single A1C determination is discordant with prior or subsequent determinations with no other evidence of deterioration in glycemic control.
- (3) The patient's reported capillary blood glucose determinations and/or venous glucose determinations in the physician's office are significantly lower than those reflected by the estimated average glucose (eAG) (eAG calculator available at <http://professional.diabetes.org/glucosecalculator.aspx>).
- (4) The patient has a personal or family history or other evidence of a hemoglobinopathy.
- (5) The patient is a member of an ethnic group with increased risk of hemoglobinopathy.

If the evaluating physician suspects that the A1C overestimates average blood glucose, further evaluation can include the following:

- (1) A repeat HbA1C
- (2) Prior HbA1C values
- (3) Serum fructosamine determination
- (4) Downloaded reports from a memory glucometer
- (5) Downloaded reports from a 72-hour continuous glucose monitor
- (6) Downloaded reports from a personal continuous glucose monitoring device

Possible explanations for discordance between the eAG based on A1C and the patient's true average glucose include the following:

- (1) *Assay Precision.* The American College of Pathology accepts variation within 7 percent in A1C assays. Thus, a person with an A1C of 8 percent might have a value between 7.5 percent and 8.5 percent on repeat testing of the same sample. [Cohen 2010]
- (2) *Hemoglobinopathies.* According to the National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse (NDIC): "With some assay methods, A1C tests in patients with hemoglobinopathies result in falsely high outcomes, overestimating actual average blood glucose levels for the previous 2 to

3 months. Physicians may then prescribe more aggressive treatments, resulting in increased episodes of hypoglycemia. Some assay methods used with some hemoglobinopathies may result in falsely low outcomes, leading to under-treatment of diabetes." Also according to the NDIC: "About one in 12 African Americans has sickle cell trait. About 14.7 percent of African Americans aged 20 years or older have diabetes. Therefore, many African Americans have both diabetes and sickle cell trait. People of Southeast Asian descent are at risk for having hemoglobin E (HbE), another hemoglobin variant."

- (3) *Interindividual Variation.*
- (4) *Clinical Studies.* A comparison of HbA1C with average glucose derived from 2 days of continuous monitoring and 3 months of 7 point glucose profiles at least three times a week. The confidence interval for average glucose with an A1C of 8 percent was 147–217 mg/dl. [Nathan 2008]
- (5) *RBC Lifespan:* Hemoglobin A1C levels are a "snapshot" of what is truly a rolling average. Subclinical variation in RBC lifespan can have a significant effect on the relationship between mean glucose and A1C, with increases in average RBC lifespan increasing net glycosylation and decreases (as in some hemoglobinopathies or in recovery from hemorrhage or anemia) decreasing net glycosylation. [Herman and Cohen 2010, Cohen 2008]
- (6) *RBC Glucose Transport.* Variations in transport across the RBC membrane result in different intracellular and extracellular glucose levels, thus affecting intracellular hemoglobin exposure to glucose and resultant glycosylation. [Khera 2008]
- (7) *Variations in Glycosylation Rates.* Patients vary in activity of the glycosylation reaction; genetically determined "high" and "low" rates of glycosylation have been described in a number of studies, explaining about one-third of interindividual variation in A1C levels. [Hudson 1999, Snieder 2001, Hempe 2002, Cohen 2006, Soranzo 2010]
- (8) *Interethnic Variation.* Numerous studies have identified the effect of ethnicity on the relationship between average glucose and A1C. In general, Caucasians have significantly lower A1C levels at comparable glucose. [Herman 2007, Cohen 2007, Viberti 2006, Herman 2009, Ziemer 2010, Kirk 2006]. This variability is independent of the effect of hemoglobinopathies noted in (2).

A.6.20.1(1)(g)iv. Episodes of severe hypoglycemia are associated with an increased risk of subsequent episodes. Hypoglycemia can interfere with cognitive function and judgment. Presence of microvascular and neurological complications of diabetes can increase the risk of hypoglycemic events.

A.6.20.1(2)(g)iv. Episodes of severe hypoglycemia might predict an increased risk of subsequent episodes. Hypoglycemia can interfere with cognitive function and judgment. Presence of microvascular and neurological complications of diabetes can increase the risk of hypoglycemic events.

A.6.20.2(1) The candidate should be evaluated for absence of orthostatic hypotension, electrolyte disorders, ability to maintain hydration during exercise under extreme environmental conditions, and normal thyroxine levels with supplementation.

A.6.21.2(2) Previous burn injury per se does not interfere with the essential job tasks of fire fighting. Extensive burn injury with or without the need for skin grafting can result in skin surfaces that are easily damaged, sensitive to chemical or

solvent exposure, or lacking in sweat or sebaceous glands. The candidate should be evaluated for heat or cold intolerance, range of motion and motor strength, and ability to wear personal protective clothing and equipment.

A.6.22.2(1) The candidate should be evaluated for space-occupying lesion, treatment, or sequelae affecting ability to perform essential job tasks.

A.6.22.2(2) The candidate should be evaluated for history or risk of seizure; residual effects on balance, coordination, strength, speech, judgment; and medication requirements.

A.6.22.2(3) The candidate should be evaluated for ability to wear SCBA and maintain nutrition and oral hydration.

A.6.22.2(4) The candidate should be evaluated for residual pulmonary function and medication requirements.

A.6.22.2(5) The candidate should be evaluated for abnormal bowel or urinary function that would interfere with emergency operations where toilet facilities are unavailable, the ability to maintain nutrition and hydration, and medication requirements.

A.6.22.2(6) The candidate should be evaluated for muscle strength, deformity interfering with function, or the ability to wear protective ensemble.

A.6.22.2(7) The candidate should be evaluated for anemia, leukopenia, or thrombocytopenia, or residual cardiac, pulmonary, GI, dermatological, or neurological effects of surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy.

N A.6.24.1(3) Examples of anticoagulation medications include antithrombin (ATryn®), apixaban (Eliquis®), argatroban, bivalirudin (Angiomax®), dabigatran etexilate (Pradaxa®), dalteparin (Fragmin®), enoxaparin (Lovenox®), fondaparinux sodium (Arixtra®), rivaroxaban (Xarelto®), and warfarin sodium (Coumadin®).

Antiplatelet agents are not anticoagulation medications and do not lead to restrictions (unless the underlying medical condition does). Examples of antiplatelet agents include aspirin, combination aspirin–extended-release dipyridamole (Aggrenox®), clopidogrel bisulfate (Plavix®), prasugrel (Effient®), ticagrelor (Brilinta®), and ticlopidine hydrogen chloride (Ticlid®).

A.6.24.1(5) Leukotriene receptor antagonists are not Category A condition if used to treat conditions not affecting the lower respiratory system.

A.6.24.2 The candidate should be evaluated for an underlying condition requiring the medication and effects of medication that could affect ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.7.1.3 A department should set protocols regarding length of time absent from duty and/or medical conditions that require the department physician to evaluate a member. Physical therapy, strength training, work hardening, functional capacity evaluations, and alternate duty are all activities that can be helpful.

A.7.2.2(5) Universal agreement exists that wellness, fitness, and risk reduction for cardiovascular disease, pulmonary disease, and cancer can be reduced by tobacco abstinence, regular exercise, and control of weight, hypertension, cholesterol, and blood sugar. The annual medical evaluation should serve as one of many opportunities in the fire department to

modify these risk factors. Clearly, risk reduction is easier if there is early intervention and if the department promotes wellness and fitness. Tobacco cessation programs should be available to the member, and all fire department facilities should be tobacco-free zones. Control of weight, hypertension, cholesterol, and blood sugar are all improved with dietary education and regular exercise.

N A.7.5.1 The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information (including family medical history). The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC) has stated that collection of genetic information is only permitted in very limited circumstances, including voluntary wellness programs, and even then only with specific informed consent. Voluntary means that participation is not required and that employees will not be penalized for non-participation. For instance, if an employer requires an employee to submit family medical history to a medical provider, even if that provider will not in turn give that information to the employer, the disclosure is not voluntary and is considered a violation of GINA.

Even though it might prove to be useful to medical providers screening for potential medical conditions, fire fighters are not required to provide family medical history under this law. When collected, family medical history must only be utilized as part of a voluntary wellness and fitness program. Specifically, it cannot be used in employment decisions. In cases where such history is collected, the employee must sign a statement confirming that the information is being voluntarily disclosed. Additionally, the health care provider must maintain the individual's confidentiality and only report such information in aggregate terms so that it cannot be tracked back to the individual.

N A.7.6(12) Studies have found increased risk for both melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer in fire fighters. Comprehensive inspection of the skin, especially in sun-exposed areas, is recommended. Any suspicious lesions should be referred for dermatological assessment.

A.7.7.1 If performing these tests as part of an automated panel that includes additional tests is more cost-effective, it is acceptable to do so.

N A.7.7.3 Baseline and annual audiometry is performed on each fire fighter. This should be done in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.95, "Occupational noise exposure." The basics of this standard include the following:

- (1) The first audiogram done (for members this will probably be done during their pre-placement exam) becomes the baseline audiogram.
- (2) If subsequent audiograms are better than the baseline, then the best one becomes the baseline. All audiograms should be done with no exposure to industrial noise for 14 hours.
- (3) Each subsequent audiogram is compared to the baseline audiogram (not to the previous year's) to determine if there is a threshold shift, which is an average loss of 10 dB or more at 2000 Hz, 3000 Hz, and 4000 Hz in either ear. This number should be corrected for presbycusis by age tables [see Table A.7.7.3(a) and Table A.7.7.3(b)]. Thus, for each of the three frequencies the baseline reading is subtracted from the current reading, and the presbycusis correction is subtracted from this result. The results from

- the three frequencies are averaged, and if this number is 10 or greater, then there is a threshold shift.
- (4) If there is a threshold shift, the AHJ must be notified. AHJs are responsible for initiating evaluation of personal protective equipment (PPE) and engineering controls.
- (5) If there is a threshold shift, the member should be advised in writing and referral to an audiologist and/or an otolaryngologist should be made.
- (6) If the threshold shift is determined to be permanent, then this audiogram becomes the “revised baseline.”

Table A.7.7.3(a) Age Correction Values in Decibels for Males

Years	Audiometric Test Frequency (Hz)				
	1000	2000	3000	4000	6000
≤20	5	3	4	5	8
21	5	3	4	5	8
22	5	3	4	5	8
23	5	3	4	6	9
24	5	3	5	6	9
25	5	3	5	7	10
26	5	4	5	7	10
27	5	4	6	7	11
28	6	4	6	8	11
29	6	4	6	8	11
30	6	4	6	9	12
31	6	4	7	9	13
32	6	5	7	10	14
33	6	5	7	10	14
34	6	5	8	11	15
35	7	5	8	11	15
36	7	5	9	12	16
37	7	6	9	12	17
38	7	6	9	13	17
39	7	6	10	14	18
40	7	6	10	14	19
41	7	6	10	14	20
42	8	7	11	16	20
43	8	7	12	16	21
44	8	7	12	17	22
45	8	7	13	18	23
46	8	8	13	19	24
47	8	8	14	19	24
48	9	8	14	20	25
49	9	9	15	21	26
50	9	9	16	22	27
51	9	9	16	23	28
52	9	10	17	24	29
53	9	10	18	25	30
54	10	10	18	26	31
55	10	11	19	27	32
56	10	11	20	28	34
57	10	11	21	29	35
58	10	12	22	31	36
59	11	12	22	32	37
≥60	11	13	23	33	38

Source: 29 CFR 1910.95.

Table A.7.7.3(b) Age Correction Values in Decibels for Females

Years	Audiometric Test Frequency (Hz)				
	1000	2000	3000	4000	6000
≤20	7	4	3	3	6
21	7	4	4	3	6
22	7	4	4	4	6
23	7	5	4	4	7
24	7	5	4	4	7
25	8	5	4	4	7
26	8	5	5	4	8
27	8	5	5	5	8
28	8	5	5	5	8
29	8	5	5	5	9
30	8	6	5	5	9
31	8	6	6	5	9
32	9	6	6	6	10
33	9	6	6	6	10
34	9	6	6	6	10
35	9	6	7	7	11
36	9	7	7	7	11
37	9	7	7	7	12
38	10	7	7	7	12
39	10	7	8	8	12
40	10	7	8	8	13
41	10	8	8	8	13
42	11	8	9	9	13
43	11	8	9	9	14
44	11	8	9	9	14
45	11	8	10	10	15
46	11	9	10	10	15
47	11	9	10	11	16
48	12	9	11	11	16
49	12	9	11	11	16
50	12	10	11	12	17
51	12	10	12	12	17
52	12	10	12	13	18
53	13	10	13	13	18
54	13	11	13	14	19
55	13	11	14	14	19
56	13	11	14	15	20
57	13	11	15	15	20
58	14	12	15	16	21
59	14	12	16	16	21
≥60	14	12	16	17	22

Source: 29 CFR 1910.95.

A.7.7.4.1 Pulmonary spirometry is an essential part of the annual medical evaluation of fire fighters wearing personal protective clothing and SCBA. Spirometric measures include the forced vital capacity (FVC), the forced expiratory volume in the first second of expiration (FEV₁), and the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio calculated by dividing the FEV₁ by the FVC in liters. Other spirometric measures of small airway flow limitations [e.g., forced expiratory flow (FEF) 25 percent to 75 percent] should not be used for screening evaluations. For spirometric measurements to be properly interpreted, they need to be performed according to American Thoracic Society recommendations. Modern spirometry uses computer-assisted quality control of both calibration and testing procedures. FEV₁ and FVC results are expressed not only as absolute values (liters) but also as percent predicted adjusted for gender, age, height, and ethnicity. Currently, the preferred method uses NHANES III normative equations with the acceptable threshold being 80 percent predicted. When percent predicted FEV₁ or FVC values are minimally below threshold (typically 74 percent to 79 percent of predicted), the LLN for the appropriate population can, at the discretion of the physician, be used instead of the 80 percent predicted threshold value. For example, the LLN may be more appropriate for taller and older individuals. (See references in F.2.5.) However, because these norms are population-based, it is possible for individuals to be normal just below these thresholds or to have minimal but potentially significant abnormalities just above these thresholds. In asymptomatic individuals with minimal reductions in spirometry measures (FEV₁, FVC, or the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio), further evaluation (complete pulmonary function tests, exercise testing, or challenge testing) can be necessary to determine if essential tasks can be performed safely. Such tests are not screening tests and therefore should be performed in a laboratory setting by an experienced specialist.

A.7.7.4.3 When the FVC or FEV₁ is reduced below 70 percent of predicted, substantial dysfunction is present. Moderate chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is considered to be present when the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio is equal to or less than 0.70 and the FEV₁ is less than 70 percent predicted. Severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is considered to be present when the absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio is less than 0.70 and the FEV₁ is less than 30 percent predicted. Moderate to severe restriction is considered when the FVC is less than 60 percent predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than 0.90. Again, in certain cases, additional pulmonary function testing can be required, such as pre- and post-spirometry, lung volumes, diffusing capacity, exercise testing, and/or challenge testing. Because these tests are for diagnostic purposes, they should be performed in a laboratory setting by an experienced specialist. [Hankinson 1999]. For most individuals, the definition of an abnormal FEV₁ or FVC is less than 80 percent predicted adjusted for gender, age, height, and ethnicity using NHANES III. However, because these norms are population-based, it is possible for individuals to be normal just below these thresholds or to have minimal but potentially significant abnormalities just above these thresholds. When percent predicted FEV₁ or FVC values are just below threshold (typically 74 percent to 79 percent of predicted), the LLN for the appropriate population can, at the discretion of the physician, be used. For example, the LLN might be more appropriate for taller and older individuals. In asymptomatic individuals with minimal reductions in FEV₁ or FVC values (70 to 79 percent predicted) and a normal FEV₁/FVC ratio (0.71 to 0.90),

further evaluation (complete pulmonary function tests, exercise testing, or challenge testing) might be necessary to determine if essential tasks can be performed safely (see F.2.5).

• **A.7.7.7.3.1** An exercise stress test (EST) provides valuable diagnostic, prognostic, and exercise tolerance (aerobic capacity) information. The EST should be conducted according to the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association (ACC/AHA) protocol. Although the EST is frequently ended when the patient reaches 90% of the target heart rate [e.g., 90 percent × (220 – age)], the ACC/AHA recommends a symptom-limiting end point. The test must be completed to 12 METS to ensure this level of cardiac work will not precipitate a sudden cardiac event. Individuals with a negative (normal) EST should be retested every 2 to 5 years based on individual clinical assessment and ASCVD risk scores.

Imaging with an EST increases the sensitivity and specificity of the test, but also significantly increases the costs. Stress echocardiography is the preferred imaging test for individuals with an abnormal resting ECG (e.g., left bundle branch block), left ventricular hypertrophy, or long-standing hypertension. Stress myocardial perfusion imaging might be indicated for asymptomatic individuals with diabetes mellitus or a strong family history of congenital heart defect (CHD).

There is increasing evidence that a coronary artery calcium (CAC) score can provide important clinical and prognostic information. A CAC score provides a structural assessment of coronary artery obstruction. When negative, the screening test provides a high level of assurance that no obstructing lesions in the coronary arteries are present (greater than 90 percent predictive value negative). A positive test prompts referral to a cardiologist for further evaluation and treatment, which typically includes an EST with imaging and/or cardiac catheterization. There is insufficient evidence to determine the frequency for a repeat CAC, but not less than 5 years would appear reasonable.

Defining the criteria for a positive or negative EST is beyond the scope of this document.

• **A.7.7.7.4** See <https://www.framinghamheartstudy.org/risk-functions/coronary-heart-disease/2-year-risk.php>.

▲ **A.7.7.9(1)** An annual TB program should include the following:

- (1) Documentation of a two-step purified protein derivative (PPD) tuberculin skin test prior to this PPD, a 0 mm PPD within the past year, or a negative TB blood test for interferon gamma release assay within the past year. [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Review, December 16, 2005, and NFPA 1581]
- (2) If the TB skin test (PPD) is used, the following is required:
 - (a) Placement of the PPD and subsequent reading by a trained, designated reader within 48 hours to 72 hours of placement. Members with a history of positive PPD should instead fill out a questionnaire and might be required to have a chest radiograph.
 - (b) PPD results should be documented in millimeters (mm). A test with no skin reaction should be recorded as 0 mm. PPD measurement should not include erythema and should include only induration in the axis perpendicular to the forearm.

- (c) A PPD skin test will be considered positive if the following conditions are present:
 - i. 5 mm or greater in a member who is immuno-suppressed, who has a household contact with active tuberculosis, or who has an abnormal chest radiograph consistent with prior tuberculosis
 - ii. 10 mm or greater in a member with a normal immune system who has an increased probability of recent infection or has other clinical conditions that increase the risk for progression to active TB. This includes all members, because fire fighters are considered health care workers if they perform EMS or rescue activities.
 - iii. 5 mm increase from previous reading occurring within last 2 years.
- (3) TB blood tests are now readily available. Their cost effectiveness must be judged by considering the fact that false positives from atypical mycobacterium or BCG vaccination do not occur and that this test requires only one visit for blood drawing, thus eliminating a return visit for PPD skin test reading. False positives and false negatives can occur if the blood specimens are not properly obtained, handled, and processed prior to and after arrival in the laboratory.
- (4) If the PPD or the tuberculin skin test is positive (conversion), the following steps should be taken:
 - (a) Member fills out questionnaire.
 - (b) Member obtains chest x-ray.
 - (c) Member is evaluated for active disease.
 - (d) Member is evaluated for preventative therapy.
- (5) If active disease is suspected, the member should be removed from any duty until he/she has been determined to be noninfectious. This will occur when the diagnosis of tuberculosis is ruled out or, if confirmed, when adequate therapy has been instituted, the cough has resolved, and three consecutive sputum smears for acid-fast bacillus (AFB) on different days are negative.

In the event of an exposure to TB, the following steps should be taken:

- (1) Member without a recent PPD (in the last 6 months) should receive a PPD, tuberculin skin test, or TB blood test within 14 days of exposure. Members with a history of positive PPD, tuberculin skin test, or TB blood test, should fill out a TB questionnaire.
- (2) Another PPD, tuberculin skin test, or TB blood test and the questionnaire should be repeated 6 weeks to 12 weeks after the first PPD.
- (3) If the PPD skin test or TB blood test turns positive (conversion) or the questionnaire is positive, proceed as described in A.7.7.9(1)(5) and A.7.7.9(1)(6).

N A.7.7.9(4) The Tdap vaccine should not be administered for 2 years following a Td dose.

N A.7.7.9(5) Women who receive the MMR vaccine should not become pregnant for three months after the vaccination is administered.

A.7.7.9.2 For further guidelines and requirements, refer to local and state departments of health and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC); also see the references in F.2.6.

A.7.7.10.2 The BBP protocol should include the following elements:

- (1) Fact sheet that explains in lay language the risks of infection, the various prophylactic and therapeutic options, the testing and follow-up that will be needed, and recommendations for personal behavior (safe sex, blood donation, etc.) following an exposure
- (2) Classification table to determine the exposure type and recommendation for prophylaxis
- (3) Current recommendations of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Public Health Services
- (4) List of tests to be done on exposed member, including the following:
 - (a) HIV
 - (b) Hepatitis B surface antibody (HBsAb), if not previously known to be positive
 - (c) Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg), if not previously known to be positive HBsAb
 - (d) Hepatitis C antibody (HCAb)
 - (e) If HIV prophylaxis is to be given, the following tests:
 - i. CBC
 - ii. Glucose, renal, and hepatic chemical function
 - iii. Pregnancy test for females
- (5) List of tests to be done on source patient, including the following:
 - (a) HIV
 - (b) HBsAg
 - (c) HCAb
- (6) If source is available, interview for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C risk/status
- (7) Determination of risk and need for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- (8) Member counseling regarding PEP medication(s) and side effects of treatment; a printed fact sheet for the member to review
- (9) PEP, if appropriate, given as soon as possible after the incident, preferably within 2 hours
- (10) Follow-up of members on prophylaxis for the duration of their treatment
- (11) Assessment of tetanus status and administration of dT booster, if appropriate
- (12) Assessment of hepatitis B status as follows:
 - (a) If previously immunized with a positive post-immunization titer, no further treatment is needed.
 - (b) If previously immunized, titer was negative, and source is HBsAg positive or high risk, give hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, and give a dose of hepatitis B vaccine.
 - (c) If previously immunized and titer is unknown, draw titer and proceed as follows:
 - i. If titer is positive, no further treatment is needed.
 - ii. If titer is negative and source is HBsAg positive or high risk, then give HBIG as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours, and give a dose of hepatitis B vaccine.

- iii. If previously immunized with negative titer and revaccinated with a negative titer, give HBIG immediately and a second dose 1 month later.
 - iv. If never immunized, give HBIG and begin hepatitis B vaccine series.
- (13) Follow-up instructions should include the following information:
- (a) Adverse events and side effects of PEP
 - (b) Signs and symptoms of retroviral illness (fever, adenopathy, rash)
 - (c) Appointments for follow-up blood work, including the following:
 - i. HIV at 6 weeks, 3 months, 6 months, and 9 months
 - ii. HBsAb and/or HCAb at 6 weeks, 3 months, and 6 months, if source is hepatitis B and/or hepatitis C positive
 - iii. Every other week CBC, renal, and liver function, if receiving PEP

A.7.7.13.2 Fire department members are exposed to a variety of particulate materials, chemicals and asbestos which can increase the risk for colon cancer. Current research suggests that fire fighters are at increased risk of colorectal cancer. Health care providers should discuss the possible increased risk of colorectal cancer resulting from occupational exposures along with the risks and benefits of initiating screening at age 40 in fire fighters. If the fire fighter decides to start screening at age 40, fecal occult blood testing (FOBT) is the method recommended for use as it has the lowest risk for adverse patient events and is the most cost effective.

The USPSTF recommended screening methods for colorectal cancer include fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy beginning at age 50 and continuing until age 75. The risks and benefits of these screening methods vary. The USPSTF concludes there is insufficient evidence to assess the benefits and harms of computed tomographic colonography and fecal DNA testing as screening modalities for colorectal cancer.

The USPSTF concluded that screening programs incorporating fecal occult blood testing, sigmoidoscopy, or colonoscopy will all be effective in reducing mortality using any of the following 3 regimens, assuming 100% adherence to the same regimen for that period:

- (1) Annual screening with high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing
- (2) Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, with high-sensitivity fecal occult blood testing every 3 years
- (3) Screening colonoscopy every 10 years

Fecal occult blood testing uses stool specimens applied to guaiac cards by the patient at home that are sent to a laboratory for later analysis. Multiple different stool samples, usually three, from different days can increase the sensitivity of this colorectal cancer screening test. Diet restrictions apply to this test.

Colonoscopy is used to examine the full lining of the colon and rectum. During the colonoscopy, polyp removal or excising a small piece of tissue for biopsy may be performed if indicated. Colonoscopy should start at an earlier age (40 years) and/or be conducted more frequently if clinically indicated. A

colonoscopy shall also be performed, regardless of age or schedule, when FOBT results are positive or when there is a consistent change in bowel habits.

A.7.7.14 Screening for prostate cancer in asymptomatic men using the PSA test is controversial; however, studies suggest that fire fighters have increased rates of prostate cancer. Therefore, prostate screening using the PSA is indicated. There is consensus regarding the serial measurements of PSA, known as the PSA velocity, for comparison over time. An increase over time indicates an increased risk for prostate cancer. A PSA test might detect small cancers that would never become life-threatening. It is unclear whether the benefits of PSA screening outweigh the risks of follow-up cancer tests and cancer treatments. Several noncancerous conditions might result in an elevated PSA level, including benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) and other conditions related to acute or chronic inflammation. When testing reveals an elevated PSA level, it is important that the benefits and risks of prostate diagnostic procedures and treatment be discussed with the member.

A.7.7.21.2 Fire fighters with a high index of suspicion for sleep disorders should be referred to a specialist for diagnostic sleep studies. See 9.12.6.2 for guidance regarding obstructive sleep apnea.

A.7.7.22 The following information should be included in an annual program designed to educate fire fighters regarding reduction of risk for occupational cancer and cardiovascular disease:

- (1) Evidence of increased occupational risk
- (2) Lifestyle and occupational risk factors for cancer and cardiovascular disease
- (3) Strategies to reduce both occupational and lifestyle risk factors for cancer and cardiovascular disease, including, but not limited to, equipment cleaning, hygiene, and lifestyle modifications
- (4) Evidence-based medical screening for cancer and cardiovascular disease

Research has supported an increased risk for cardiovascular events and for many types of cancer in fire fighters. Risk reduction methods for prevention of both cardiovascular disease and cancer are similar and include the following:

- (1) Reduction of occupational exposure to carcinogens and particulates through hygiene methods
- (2) Proper use and maintenance of personal protective equipment
- (3) Elimination of nonoccupational exposure to carcinogens including, but not limited to, tobacco use
- (4) Optimization of health through lifestyle modification including, but not limited to, use of sunscreen and maintenance of optimal physical fitness and body weight

Awareness of the appropriate use of evidence-based screening tests is important for early detection of both cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The fire department physician should ensure the quality, accuracy, currency, and content of educational materials. This information can be disseminated using a variety of teaching methods including, but not limited to, in-person didactic classroom sessions, discussions, videotaped materials, or web-based modules. This should be supplemented with take-home written and/or web-based resources to ensure effective communication.

Examples of available resources for this information include, but are not limited to, the IAFF cancer awareness and prevention training course, which was developed in conjunction with the Firefighter Cancer Support Network, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association, and IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative.

A.8.1.1 Besides the methods of determination of body fat mentioned in 8.1.2, other, cruder methods have been used. Insurance companies have used height–weight tables to estimate risk of mortality. These tables of “ideal” weight for a given height simply reflect the norm for the U.S. population without consideration of relationship of the norm to health or fitness. Another means of determining obesity that has more scientific basis is the measurement of body mass index (BMI) or the Quetelet index. This is defined as body weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. Studies have shown that the Quetelet index correlates rather well ($r = 0.70$) with actual measurement of body fat from hydrostatic weighing — better than do height–weight tables. BMI also correlates with risks associated with obesity. Some experts feel that the major limitation of the BMI is that it is difficult to interpret to patients and to use in counseling about weight loss. It does have the advantage of being more precise than weight tables and of permitting comparison of populations. However, skinfold measurements correlate more highly with data from hydrostatic weighing, measuring percent body fat, and are thus more accurate for fat-related classification than the Quetelet index. Researchers from the Panel on Energy, Obesity, and Body Weight Standards have recommended that Table A.8.1.1 be used when using the Quetelet index for obesity classification.

The health risks associated with obesity begin in the range of 25 kg/m² to 30 kg/m². For example, someone with a large fat-free mass (e.g., a bodybuilder) would be classified by the Quetelet index as obese, though not to the same extent as he/she would be with relative weight or the height–weight tables. Another example of exception to this standard would be members of the Phoenix Fire Department, whose average BMI is 28. This would place the members in the mildly obese range, yet on their fitness evaluations they score in the excellent range.

A.8.1.2(1) A number of researchers have found that the ratio of waist-to-hip circumference (WHR) and the following circumference measurements are an accurate and convenient method of determining the type of obesity present:

- (1) Abdomen I (males) over the umbilicus
- (2) Abdomen II (females) just below the umbilicus, at the narrowest portion of the waistline below the ribs and above hips with the abdomen relaxed

The guide for measurement is as follows:

- (1) Hips at the widest part below the waist; landmark is the greater trochanter, feet together
- (2) Neck just below the larynx perpendicular to the long axis of the neck

Equations for body fat prediction from circumferences and height measured in inches are as follows:

Males ($N = 592$; $R = 90$; S.E. meas = 3.52 percent fat) percent fat = $+ [85.20969 \times \log (\text{abdomen I circumference} - \text{neck circumference})] - [69.73016 \times \log (\text{height})] + 37.26673$

Females = $+ [161.27327 \times \log (\text{abdomen II circumference} + \text{hip-neck circumference})] - [100.81032 \times \log (\text{height})] - 69.55016$

A.8.1.2(3) The most widely used method for determining obesity is based on the thickness of skinfolds. The measures, when performed correctly, have a high correlation ($r = 0.80+$) with body density from underwater weighing.

Many researchers in the United States (including those performing the large national surveys of the U.S. population that form the basis for normative data worldwide) take skinfold measurements on the right side of the body. U.K. and European investigators, on the other hand, tend to take measurements on the left side of the body. Most research, however, reveals that it matters little on which side measurements are taken.

A suggested way to conduct measurements is as follows:

- (1) As a general rule, those with little experience in skinfold measurement should mark the site to be measured with a black felt pen. A flexible steel tape can be used with sites when it is necessary to locate a bodily midpoint. With experience, however, the sites can be located without marking.
- (2) The measurer should feel the site prior to measurement, to familiarize himself and the person being measured with the area where the skinfold will be taken.
- (3) The skinfold should be firmly grasped by the thumb and index finger of the left hand and pulled away from the body. While this is usually easy with thin people, it is much harder with the obese and can be somewhat uncomfortable for the person being tested. The amount of tissue pinched up must be enough to form a fold with approximately parallel sides. The thicker the fat layer under the skin, the wider the necessary fold (and the more separation needed between thumb and index finger).
- (4) The caliper is held in the right hand, perpendicular to the skinfold and with the skinfold dial facing up and easily readable. The caliper heads should be placed $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. away from the fingers holding the skinfold, so that the pressure of the caliper will not be affected.
- (5) The skinfold caliper should not be placed too deep into the skinfold or too far away on the tip of the skinfold. Try to visualize where a true double fold of skin thickness is and place the caliper heads there. It is good practice to position the caliper arms one at a time, first the fixed arm on one side and then the lever arm on the other.
- (6) The dial is read approximately 4 seconds after the pressure from your hand has been released on the lever arm of the caliper jaw.

Table A.8.1.1 Quetelet Index for Obesity

BMI (kg/m ²)	Classifications
20–24.9	Desirable range for men and women
25–29.9	Grade 1 obesity
30–40	Grade 2 obesity
Greater than 40	Grade 3 obesity (morbid obesity)

- (7) A minimum of two measurements should be taken at each site. Measurements should be at least 15 seconds apart to allow the skinfold site to return to normal. If consecutive measurements vary by more than 1 mm, more should be taken until there is consistency.
- (8) Maintain the pressure with the thumb and forefinger throughout each measurement.
- (9) When measuring the obese, it can be impossible to elevate a skinfold with parallel sides, particularly over the abdomen. In this situation, try using both hands to pull the skinfold away while a partner attempts to measure the width. If the skinfold is too wide for the calipers, underwater weighing or another technique will have to be used.
- (10) Measurements should not be taken when the skin is moist because there is a tendency to grasp extra skin, obtaining inaccurately large values. Also measurements should not be taken immediately after exercise or when the person being measured is overheated, because the shift of body fluid to the skin will inflate normal skinfold size.
- (11) It takes practice to be able to grasp the same amount of skinfold consistently at the same location every time. Accuracy can be tested by having several technicians take the same measurements and comparing results. It can take up to 20 to 50 practice sessions to become proficient. Calipers should be accurately calibrated and have constant pressure of 10 g/mm² throughout the full measurement range. The accuracy of skinfold measurements can be reduced by many factors, including measurement at the wrong sites, inconsistencies among different calipers and testers, and the use of inconsistent equations. However, when testers practice together and take care to standardize their testing procedures, inconsistencies among testers can usually be held under 1 percent.

A.8.2.2.1 An appropriate target level should be to a predicted level of 12 METs or greater, which is necessary for firefighting activities.

A.8.2.2.1.2 A prescribed aerobic program might be a consideration.

▲ A.9.1.3(1) A member, while wearing full protective clothing (turnout coat and pants, helmet, boots, and gloves) and SCBA, is required to safely perform a variety of fire-fighting tasks that require upper body strength and aerobic capacity. For those not familiar with fire suppression, the following specific details inherent to the activities in essential job task 1 are offered:

- (1) Lifting and carrying tools and equipment (e.g., axe, halligan tool, pike pole, chain saw, circular saw, rabbit tool, high-rise pack, and hose) that weigh between 7 lb and 20 lb (3.2 kg and 9 kg) and are used in a chopping motion over the head, extended in front of the body, or in a push/pull motion.
- (2) Advancing a 1¼ in. (45 mm) or a 2½ in. (65 mm) diameter hose line, which requires lifting, carrying, and pulling the hose at grade, below or above grade, or up ladders. In addition to the weight of the hose itself, a 50 ft (15 m) section of charged 1¼ in. (45 mm) hose contains approximately 90 lb (41 kg) of water, and a 50 ft (15 m) section of 2½ in. (65 mm) hose holds approximately 130 lb (59 kg) of water.

- (3) Performing forcible entry while utilizing tools and equipment (e.g., axe, halligan tool, chain saw, circular saw, or rabbit tool) that requires chopping, pulling, or operating these items to open doors, windows, or other barriers to gain access to victims, possible victims, or to initiate fire-fighting operations.
- (4) Performing ventilation (horizontal or vertical) utilizing tools and equipment (e.g., axe, circular saw, chain saw, pike pole) while operating on a flat or pitched roof or operating off a ground or aerial ladder. This task requires the fire fighter to chop or push tools through roofs, walls, or windows.

Other tasks that could be performed can include search and rescue operations and other emergency response actions under stressful conditions, including working in extremely hot and cold environments for prolonged time periods.

A.9.3.2 Possible accommodations include but are not limited to changes in assignment, provision of special devices to assist the member in accommodating the medical disability, revision of standard operating procedures, and/or techniques.

A.9.3.3 What this chapter does is provide guidance to fire department physicians for determining a member's ability to medically and physically function using the individual medical assessment for the conditions listed in the chapter.

A.9.4 Fire-fighting activities have a high static component (i.e., inducing predominantly an increase in blood pressure) and a moderate to high dynamic component (i.e., inducing predominantly an increase in heart rate). Sports with a similar set of demands include wrestling, body building, and boxing. Recommendations made by the task force with respect to athletic activities that have these physical demands (high static, moderate dynamic) have been followed in this document.

Performance of the aerobic and anaerobic critical job tasks in a stressful, noxious fire or rescue environment with low oxygen, high carbon monoxide, and numerous toxic gases has significant risk for acutely aggravating pre-existing arrhythmias and cardiac ischemia (oxygen delivery) and decreasing cardiac valve or muscle function (oxygen supply). To protect from this environment requires that the fire fighter wear personal protective equipment (PPE) and SCBA. The PPE provides a thermal barrier at the cost of added weight, encapsulation, dehydration, and increased metabolic cost for a given workload. The SCBA is a positive pressure demand valve respirator that provides a barrier against the inhalation of noxious/toxic gases and particulate matter but at increased metabolic cost due to its weight and increased respiratory workload. Fire-fighting activities have a high static component (i.e., inducing predominantly an increase in blood pressure) and a moderate to high dynamic component (i.e., inducing predominantly an increase in heart rate). These factors increase physiologic stress and cardiac demand and can precipitate acute cardiac collapse, heart attack, syncope (blackout), or sudden death. In the absence of sudden death, the fact that the fire fighter was operating in an isolated, dangerous environment when a cardiac event occurred would make the subsequent risk for such an event leading to death unacceptably high for that fire fighter, for the civilian who depends upon that fire fighter, or for other fire fighters who not only depend upon that fire fighter but can also be called upon to rescue that fire fighter.

N A.9.4.3.1 The criteria listed in 9.4.3.1(1) through 9.4.3.1(6), including annual radionuclide stress tests, should be re-evaluated on an annual basis by the fire department physician.

A.9.4.8.2(6) Those without any of the above risk factors have a less than 1 percent risk of sudden death.

A.9.4.9.1 A first episode of syncope must be fully evaluated to determine that the underlying cause does not compromise a member's ability to safely perform job tasks. Underlying neurologic, cardiovascular, circulatory, and/or endocrine disturbance must be ruled out. If after evaluation there is no evidence for underlying disease, exam is normal, and there has been no reoccurrence, then the member need not be restricted from performing job tasks. If underlying disease is present and not reversible, then the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 13 is compromised due to risk for life-threatening sudden incapacitation. *(For additional recommendations, see section relevant to the underlying disease.)* If recurrent and no underlying disease, then the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 13 might be compromised.

A.9.4.10.1 This technology has not been FDA approved for operating effectively under conditions commonly found on the fire ground (electromagnetic interference). In addition, the requirement for pacemaker or implantable defibrillator defines the underlying cardiac condition as life-threatening. Many pacemakers do not have the ability to automatically increase heart rate upon demand during the critical job tasks performed on the fire ground.

A.9.4.16.1 Evaluation with ECG, Holter monitor, and/or stress test should be further supplemented with electrophysiologic study (EPS). If rapid supraventricular tachycardia is inducible and surgical ablation is successful, there is no medical reason to restrict the member from performing essential job task 13.

A.9.4.17.1 Even if rate controlled (with or without medication), the added catecholamine stress and dehydration produced when performing critical job tasks on the fire ground makes the potential for life-threatening sudden incapacitation associated with this rhythm disturbance too great a risk. If persistent or recurrent, these arrhythmias, even if rate controlled, can result in embolic events, which prevent the successful and safe performance of critical job tasks on the fire ground or during emergency responses.

Δ A.9.4.20.1.1 Members with prehypertension (systolic 120–139 mmHg or diastolic 80–89 mmHg), Stage 1 hypertension (systolic 140–159 mmHg or diastolic 90–99 mmHg), or stage 2 hypertension (systolic 160 mmHg or greater or diastolic 100 mmHg or greater) should be referred to their primary care physician for evaluation, lifestyle modification, and/or treatment.

- (1) Members with stage I hypertension whose BP returns to either prehypertension or normal with lifestyle modification can return to an annual medical evaluation. For members with long-standing stage I hypertension whose BP has not been reduced, additional evaluation for possible end organ damage should be considered, including any or all of the following:
 - (a) Complete patient history for symptoms of heart failure (e.g., shortness of breath upon exertion) or transient ischemic attacks (TIAs)
 - (b) Dilated eye examination for retinopathy

- (c) Blood creatinine measurement for nephropathy
- (d) Tests for left ventricular hypertrophy (Use of the resting ECG to detect left ventricular hypertrophy is insensitive, e.g., 5 percent sensitivity, so echocardiogram is the currently accepted test for diagnosing left ventricular hypertrophy.)

(2) Chronic hypertension can damage the eye (retinopathy), the kidneys (nephropathy), the vascular system (stroke, TIA, or PAD), or the heart (left ventricular hypertrophy and heart failure). These hypertension complications are known as end organ damage. The cardiac and vascular complications are associated with an increased risk of sudden incapacitation and sudden cardiac death (Koren et al. 1991). With proper evaluation, lifestyle modification, and/or treatment, these complications can be avoided. Lifestyle modification includes weight reduction, dietary plan, reduction in dietary sodium, an increase in aerobic physical activity, and moderation in alcohol consumption [Chobanian 2003].

(3) Because of the high risk of a sudden cardiovascular events (e.g., due to undiagnosed cardiac disease), members with stage 2 hypertension should be restricted until their blood pressure can be brought under control. Once their blood pressure is brought under control, end stage organ complications should be regularly evaluated as described in A.9.4.20.1.1(2). The frequency of such evaluation is based on the severity and duration of their elevated blood pressure.

Δ A.9.4.21.1 Metabolic syndrome includes three or more of the following components:

- (1) Abdominal obesity, defined as a waist circumference >102 cm (>40 in.) in men or >88 cm (>35 in.) in women
- (2) Triglycerides >150 mg/dl
- (3) HDL cholesterol <40 mg/dl for men, <50 mg/dl for women
- (4) Blood pressure >135/85 mmHg
- (5) Fasting blood glucose >110 mg/dl

Members with metabolic syndrome should receive a cardiac stress. Members should be counseled as to lifestyle adjustments, receive an exercise prescription, and be referred to their personal physician for treatment of their elevated cholesterol, triglycerides, insulin resistant hyperglycemia, and/or hypertension.

N A.9.4.23.2 Obesity is independently predictive of cardiac hypertrophy.

A.9.6 All disorders of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis can potentially affect fire fighters because these hormonal systems play an essential role in maintaining homeostasis when exposed to physiologic and emotional stress while performing critical tasks on the fire ground or during emergency operations. Homeostatic regulation is further impaired under conditions of extreme temperature and dehydration, both of which are common when performing the critical tasks of fire fighting while wearing personal protective clothing on the fire ground.

Without treatment, the risk of life-threatening dehydration, extreme alterations in body temperature, electrolyte disturbances, and muscle weakness while operating at a fire scene is unacceptably high. Mineralocorticoid deficiency also increases the risk of life-threatening hypotension and/or arrhythmias associated with exertion and dehydration. For this reason, untreated or uncorrected hypothalamic, hypopituitarism,

hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, thyroid storm, hypoadrenalism, hyperadrenalism, parathyroidism, and other disorders of thyroid and adrenal function threaten a member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks.

A.9.6.3.1 Type 1 diabetes was previously called insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (IDDM) or juvenile-onset diabetes. Type 1 diabetes develops when the body's immune system destroys pancreatic beta cells, the only cells in the body that make the hormone insulin, which regulates blood glucose. This form of diabetes usually strikes children and young adults, although disease onset can occur at any age. Type 1 diabetes can account for 5 percent to 10 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. In order to survive, people with Type 1 diabetes must have insulin delivered by a pump or injections.

Type 2 diabetes was previously called non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus (NIDDM) or adult-onset diabetes. Type 2 diabetes can account for about 90 percent to 95 percent of all diagnosed cases of diabetes. It usually begins as insulin resistance, a disorder in which the cells do not use insulin properly. As the need for insulin rises, the pancreas gradually loses its ability to produce insulin. Type 2 diabetes is associated with older age, obesity, family history of diabetes, prior history of gestational diabetes, impaired glucose tolerance, physical inactivity, and race/ethnicity. Type 2 diabetes is increasingly being diagnosed in children and adolescents. Many people with Type 2 diabetes can control their blood glucose by following a careful diet and exercise program, losing excess weight, and taking oral medication. Among adults with diagnosed diabetes, about 12 percent take both insulin and oral medications, 19 percent take insulin only, 53 percent take oral medications only, and 15 percent do not take either insulin or oral medications.

Diabetic members should be carefully monitored for control of blood sugar because lack of glycemic control increases the risk for dehydration, hypotension, and target organ damage (e.g., myocardial infarction), which that can result in life-threatening sudden incapacitation during performance of critical job tasks. Such members should be monitored at regular intervals to ascertain that blood glucose and blood hemoglobin A1C levels remain under control. According to the American Diabetes Association 2010 guidelines, lowering hemoglobin A1C to below or around 7 percent has been shown to reduce microvascular and neuropathic complications of type I and type II diabetes. The recommendation for microvascular disease prevention in nonpregnant adults in general is for a hemoglobin A1C level of less than 7 percent. Exceptions to this 7 percent level would be any condition that exists in addition to diabetes that is responsible for the hemoglobin A1C not accurately reflecting average glucose levels (e.g., hemoglobinopathies such as sickle cell disease). Additional exceptions to this 7 level would occur in individuals already not meeting NFPA 1582 requirements (e.g., history of severe hypoglycemia or end organ complications). See reference in F.2.3.

With medical control of diabetes, the risk of hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) becomes a major concern in regard to those with diabetes being or becoming fire fighters. This risk is greatest in those with Type 1 diabetes.

In general, members treated with oral diabetes medications are at little risk of significant hypoglycemia. Members treated with metformin, alpha-glucosidase inhibitors, or thiazolidinediones alone or in combination with each other are at no risk of hypoglycemia, as these classes of drugs do not increase insulin levels. Members treated with **sulfonylureas** and related

drugs have a risk of severe hypoglycemia less than 1 percent of the risk associated with insulin treatment. Members treated with diet and exercise alone (no oral diabetes medications or insulin) are at no risk of hypoglycemia.

Fire fighting entails a unique set of conditions that need to be considered in regard to those with diabetes and the risks of hypoglycemia. Unpredictable meal schedules, periods of physical exertion, adrenergic stimulation, and sleep deprivation all present challenges to fire fighters with diabetes. There are occasions when there is no safe access to food or other forms of oral glucose while wearing respiratory protection in a hazardous environment, and the typical symptoms of hypoglycemia might not be recognized as easily in the midst of fighting a fire. As well, it is not always possible to exit a hazard zone rapidly enough to treat hypoglycemic symptoms when detected. Members engaged in fire suppression are at greater risk than those engaged in other emergency activities (EMS, law enforcement) for this reason.

A review of current published data suggests that with careful individualized assessment it is possible to identify those with diabetes who can function fully as fire fighters and who do not present a significant risk to themselves, their fellow fire fighters, or to those they serve.

The individualized assessment process and criteria included in this standard were set up to assure that only those who are managing their diabetes conscientiously using the most up-to-date approaches would be eligible to be a fire fighter. In addition, certain patients have a greater tendency for significant hypoglycemia despite the quality of their diabetes management. Such individuals would not be good candidates to be fire fighters and, accordingly, are excluded from service under the criteria in this standard.

This individualized assessment is possible in large part because a great deal of change has occurred in the treatment of diabetes in recent years. Previously, patients used insulins that were somewhat unpredictable in the time course of their action and generally took two injections per day. Today, there are insulins that are far more predictable and are either very long acting and essentially treat only endogenous glucose production (and therefore do not depend on a patient eating on a regular schedule) or are very rapid and therefore can be administered directly before, during, or even shortly after one eats, significantly decreasing the chance of insulin being taken and then the meal being interrupted due to fire fighting duties.

Regimens now referred to as "basal bolus" are composed of a very long-acting basal (or background) insulin, which controls glucose levels overnight and in the absence of glucose intake and rapid-acting (bolus) insulins that are dosed just prior to, during, or even after meals based on blood glucose levels at that time, the amount of carbohydrate that the person expects to consume, and any anticipated change in physical activity patterns over the next number of hours.

These regimens have resulted in improved overall blood glucose control with significantly less risk of hypoglycemia for many patients.

Additional major advances in the size, speed, and sophistication of blood glucose meters provide for easy, accurate, and rapid assessment of blood glucose levels. Such monitoring techniques, as well as the generally increased self-awareness that

accompanies consistent self-monitoring, enable the motivated fire fighter with diabetes to assess blood glucose levels and ingest a safety net of carbohydrates before entering a hazardous environment. Similarly, major advances in insulin delivery systems have greatly increased the ability of the motivated individual with diabetes to achieve a level of diabetes self-management consistent with the duties of fire fighting.

In order to get maximum effect from these medical advances, and to minimize the risk of hypoglycemia, members with diabetes must check their blood glucose level frequently (as recommended based on factors such as type of therapy and glycemic history), review these results on a regular basis, and see their diabetes care provider regularly for discussion in regard to any necessary changes in treatment. Member evaluation needs to look for any of the known risk factors for serious hypoglycemia or evidence of any of the known microvascular (eye disease, kidney disease, or nerve disease) or macrovascular (cardiovascular disease, peripheral arterial disease) complications of diabetes. A 12 MET stress test is required because myocardial infarction remains the major cause of line-of-duty fatalities, and diabetes (Type 1 and Type 2) is not only a risk factor for myocardial ischemia but also for silent myocardial ischemia.

The individualized assessment just described demands a very close and good working relationship between the member and the diabetes care provider. The experience of those who care for current fire fighters with diabetes is that this works for a highly motivated member who will do whatever it takes to perform his/her job at a high level and in a safe manner.

A.9.6.4.1 See A.9.6.3.1.

A.9.7 Theoretically, respiratory protection from this environment is afforded by SCBA use. Experience shows that SCBA are frequently taken off to improve visibility and that SCBA air supply is often insufficient to last for the entire fire operation (ingress, suppression, overhaul, and egress). Thus, performance of essential job tasks is regularly done for short time periods in a noxious fire or hazardous materials environment with high carbon monoxide, noxious/toxic gases, and irritants. Working in this environment has added potential for increasing carbon monoxide levels, decreasing oxygen levels, and reducing oxygen delivery, and the extent of this reduction and resulting risk is directly related to the degree of dysfunctional gas exchange already present prior to the performance of these essential job tasks. It also has potential for acutely aggravating pre-existing airway hyperreactivity commonly found in patients with asthma and other obstructive pulmonary conditions (bronchitis, etc.). Acute hyperreactivity in this environment is likely to induce immediate clinical asthma (bronchospasm and wheeze) with a significant increased work of breathing and gas exchange abnormalities. Respiratory insufficiency, no matter the cause, has the potential for arrhythmias, cardiac ischemia (oxygen delivery), decreased respiratory and cardiac function (oxygen delivery to tissues), acidosis, and life-threatening sudden incapacitation.

A.9.7.6 Asthma, defined as reversible bronchospasm, can be temporary or chronic. "Temporary asthma," more accurately referred to as acute bronchitis with wheezing, is a brief episode lasting days to months, usually following allergic or infectious exposure. When this occurs without prior history, it most likely will resolve over the next few weeks or months. Such temporary incidents, once resolved, do not compromise the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks. In contrast, true

asthma is a chronic condition with a clinical history of recurrent reversible bronchospasm or longstanding, persistent reversible bronchospasm. For asthmatics, exposure to smoke or other irritants on the fire ground or a hazardous materials environment has a high probability of causing acute asthma attacks and can also worsen the progression of the underlying obstructive inflammatory disease. If this occurs in an environment that is immediately dangerous to life and health (e.g., interior fire suppression or certain hazardous materials operations), it can have potentially devastating consequences for the member, the team, or the mission. There are no studies that support or deny that asthma in this environment can be prevented or adequately controlled by anti-inflammatory medications (inhaled corticosteroids, cromolyn, leukotriene modifiers). It is not acceptable to use or rely on bronchodilator medications for this purpose because in a hazardous environment, SCBA cannot be removed to use a rescue inhaler. There are no studies that support or deny that the use of such medications is preventive or effective in a fire/smoke environment, and several studies have implicated the use of beta-agonists (short- and long-acting bronchodilators) as an independent risk for sudden death and myocardial infarction in the United States, Canada, Britain, New Zealand, and Australia.

Identifying asthmatics who are not only stable in a normal environment but also do not have asthmatic attacks in a fire or irritant environment is difficult. Because the clinical definition of asthma is reversible bronchospasm, spirometry or pulmonary function testing performed in the absence of a clinical attack is expected to be normal and might not even show a bronchodilator response. Only if performed during an attack will spirometry or other pulmonary function tests show obstructive airway flow limitations with a positive bronchodilator response (greater than 12 percent and 200 mL increase in FEV₁). Therefore, in these fire fighters who report good control without asthma exacerbations on the fire ground, spirometry should show adequate reserve (FVC and FEV₁ greater than or equal to 90 percent predicted), without significant bronchodilator response when performed off bronchodilators on the day of testing. For population studies, pulmonary function is considered normal when greater than or equal to 80 percent predicted, but for an individual with a history of asthmatic bronchospasm who is being considered for job tasks performed in a potentially irritant environment, it is reasonable diligence to require pulmonary function with a greater specificity for demonstrating adequate reserve (greater than or equal to 90 percent predicted). The first time this member is being evaluated for asthma control, challenge testing should be performed to demonstrate no evidence for clinically significant airway hyperreactivity [i.e., to be normal or negative there should be less than 20 percent decline in FEV₁ with provocative challenge testing to cold air, exercise (12 METs), or a methacholine (PC₂₀ greater than 8 is considered normal, as response at dose greater than 8 mg might not be clinically significant)]. Challenge testing should be performed off bronchodilators the day of testing. If the member reports good control only when taking prescribed control medications (inhaled corticosteroids, cromolyn, or leukotriene modifiers), then consideration should be given to continuing these medications during the testing. The member should not use bronchodilators (short- or long-acting bronchodilators) the day of testing because these medications could undermine the purpose of this test — that is, demonstrating normal pulmonary function without clinically significant bronchodilator response or airway hyperreactivity. Challenge testing should be performed only by an experienced

specialist. Testing should not be performed in members without a history suggestive of asthma, since there is no indication for testing. It should never be performed in members with moderate to severe pulmonary dysfunction, as these members have already demonstrated that they cannot safely perform essential job tasks, and further testing might induce life-threatening bronchospasm. Challenge testing should not be performed annually and should be repeated only if clinically indicated.

▲ A.9.7.6.1(6) If the member reports good control only when taking prescribed control anti-inflammatory medications (e.g., inhaled corticosteroids or cromolyn or oral leukotriene modifiers), then consideration should be given to continuing these medications during the testing. The member should not use bronchodilators (short- or long-acting bronchodilators) the day of testing because these medications can undermine the purpose of the test, that is, to demonstrate normal pulmonary function without clinically significant bronchodilator response or airway hyperreactivity. Provocative challenge testing should be performed the first time the member is evaluated for asthma and only if all the provisions in 9.7.6.1(1) through 9.7.6.1(7) indicate that the member's asthma is under acceptable control. Provocative challenge testing is not required annually and should be repeated only if clinically indicated.

A.9.7.7 A member with current or recent history of allergic-induced, reversible bronchospasm is no different from a non-allergic asthmatic in his/her ability to safely perform the essential job tasks associated with non-allergic irritant exposures, as the majority will remain hyperreactive for 4 to 8 weeks after allergic-induced bronchospasm. Two caveats exist. First, some members could have a distant history of allergic asthma, are unlikely to be exposed to this allergen again, or have successfully been desensitized by an allergist. These members, if asymptomatic off asthma medications for 2 months, can perform all essential job tasks with reasonable safety. If asthma is still suspected then the member should be evaluated as in 9.7.6. Provocative challenge testing should only be to general irritants (e.g., cold air, exercise, or methacholine). Specific allergen challenge testing should not be performed, as the risk for life-threatening asthma outweighs the benefit. Second, members can have allergic rhinitis, sinus or skin conditions without a history, or suspicion of clinical asthma. These members do not need specialized pulmonary testing.

A.9.7.8 Moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is characterized by an FEV₁/FVC ratio of 0.45 to 0.59 (absolute ratio rather than percent of predicted) and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease by an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio equal to or less than 0.07 and an FEV₁ less than 0.70 percent predicted. Additional tests that can be of value are lung volumes, gas exchange parameters (diffusing capacity, oxygen saturation, arterial blood gases), chest radiograph, and chest CT scan. With moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, elevated respiratory workload and lack of respiratory reserve will not provide adequate gas exchange for the safe performance of essential job tasks. Working in this environment has the potential for increasing carbon monoxide levels, decreasing oxygen levels, and reducing oxygen delivery, and the extent of this reduction and resulting risk is directly related to the degree of dysfunctional gas exchange already present prior to the performance of essential job tasks. It also has the likely potential for acutely aggravating pre-existing airway hyperreactivity commonly found in patients with moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (bronchi-

tis, etc.). Acute hyperreactivity in this environment can induce immediate or progressive clinical asthma (bronchospasm and wheeze) that can lead to sudden incapacitation from status asthmaticus and/or cardiac ischemia. In contrast, asymptomatic members with mild chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (an absolute FEV₁/FVC equal to or less than 0.70 and an FEV₁ above 70 percent predicted) and without airway hyperreactivity might be able to safely perform essential job tasks. However, if members with mild chronic obstructive pulmonary disease are symptomatic, especially during exercise or on the fire ground, then appropriate additional testing can be useful, including pre- and post-spirometry, lung volumes, gas exchange parameters (diffusing capacity, oxygen saturation, arterial blood gases), exercise testing, and/or provocative challenge testing.

A.9.7.14 Members who are otherwise qualified can safely resume fire-fighting duties as long as they have recovered from their pneumothorax (with or without surgery) and their pulmonary function has returned to acceptable limits. Most patients with spontaneous pneumothorax have cysts or bullous disease from congenital or infectious etiology. Some have bullous disease due to chronic pulmonary disease. Usually, those with congenital or infectious cause will have pulmonary function tests that are compatible with the safe use of SCBA while those with chronic pulmonary disease can have pulmonary function tests that are not compatible with the safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7. Regardless of cause, many (10 percent to 20 percent) will have a recurrence on the same side unless surgically corrected. After the pneumothorax has resolved, surgical correction of underlying cystic/bullous disease is not a prerequisite for returning to fire-fighting duty as long as pulmonary function allows for the safe use of SCBA.

A.9.7.16 Significant pleural effusions should be referred for diagnostic tests, as new or increasing effusions can be a sign of cardiac, liver, or renal disease, pneumonia, empyema, tuberculosis, or cancer. When these illnesses are severe enough to cause pleural effusions, they compromise the ability to safely perform essential job tasks due to limitations of endurance or inability to safely wear SCBA. If not the illnesses causing pleural effusions, then pulmonary function tests should be assessed. Moderate to severe restriction (FVC less than 60 percent of predicted with an absolute FEV₁/FVC ratio greater than or equal to 0.90) compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks unless a more complete evaluation of gas exchange and exercise capacity shows the ability to exercise at a workload of 12 METs without evidence of hypoxia or exercise desaturation.

A.9.8.9 After acute infection has resolved, the fire fighter can return to work if weight, muscle strength, cardiac function, and function of other involved organs have returned to levels required for safe performance of essential job tasks. Concepts used within this document for each of these organ systems should be applied here.

A.9.8.10 After active infection has resolved (e.g., sputum AFB or sputum culture negative for 3 successive days) and the fire fighter is no longer contagious (usually within 2 weeks of successful treatment), the fire fighter can return to work but perform only essential job tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 9 if weight, muscle strength, pulmonary function, and function of other involved organs have returned to acceptable levels for safe performance. Concepts used within this document for each of

these organ systems should be applied here. A positive tuberculin (PPD) skin test or a positive tuberculin blood test without symptoms and with a normal chest radiograph indicates exposure, and latent infection without evidence for active infection does not prevent a fire fighter from performing essential job tasks. Alternatively, a positive TB skin test (PPD) can be a false-positive from exposure to atypical mycobacterium or from prior BCG vaccination. The TB blood test does not produce these false positives, but experience with false negatives is limited [*Mortality and Morbidity Weekly Review*, December 16, 2005]. If conversion from negative to positive tuberculin test (PPD or blood test) occurred within the last 2 years, there is increased risk for the development of active contagious tuberculosis, which requires either treatment or frequent monitoring for symptoms and chest radiograph changes (annually for at least 2 years or during evaluation of current symptoms). Members on prophylactic treatment can perform all essential job tasks without restrictions. Treatment is a personal decision, but in its absence, monitoring with chest radiographs at prescribed intervals is mandatory because development of active disease is a public health hazard to other members and the public.

A.9.8.11 Hepatitis, when not acute or when chronic but without symptoms and without significant liver dysfunction or other organ system dysfunction, does not prevent the successful and safe performance of essential job tasks during fire fighting or EMS work. Hepatitis A, when not acute, is no longer a public health risk. Hepatitis B, C, and so forth, are bloodborne pathogens and are not a public health risk, as **standard** precautions to prevent the spread of bloodborne infections are a mandatory part of all emergency operations. Treatment to prevent Hepatitis C from progressing to liver insufficiency or failure (cirrhosis) is now available and FDA approved. Members receiving this treatment need to be regularly evaluated to determine their ability to safely perform their essential job tasks. This combination drug therapy protocol can produce dehydration, fatigue, depression, anemia, thrombocytopenia (bleeding disorder), and so forth.

A.9.8.12 HIV without AIDS does not prevent the successful and safe performance of essential job tasks during fire fighting or EMS work. HIV is a bloodborne pathogen and is not a public health risk, as **standard** precautions to prevent the spread of bloodborne infections are a mandatory part of all emergency operations. The fire fighter with AIDS but without significant organ dysfunction is able to safely perform essential job tasks after careful evaluation. Treatment to prevent AIDS from occurring when HIV infection occurs or to control the progression of AIDS is available and FDA approved. Members receiving this treatment need to be regularly evaluated to determine their ability to safely perform the essential job tasks on the fire ground, during emergency operations, and when wearing protective clothing. This combination drug therapy protocol can produce dehydration, fatigue, depression, anemia, thrombocytopenia (bleeding disorder), and so forth.

A.9.9 The personal protective ensemble and SCBA can place the fire fighter's spine at a biomechanical disadvantage due to added weight and altered center of gravity. Certain medications (narcotics and muscle relaxants) used to treat spinal conditions can frequently produce or worsen somnolence, discoordination, and disequilibrium. Neurologic dysfunction, regardless of cause, can produce sudden incapacitation, which when working in dangerous environments can result in life-threatening injuries.

A.9.10 Fire fighters with active, ongoing, or recurrent orthopedic disorders can have difficulty due to reduced motor strength, sensation, and flexibility as well as problems with fatigue, coordination, gait, and equilibrium. These physical abilities are required to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 13. The protective uniform and SCBA can place the fire fighter's involved extremity (upper or lower) at a biomechanical disadvantage due to added weight and altered center of gravity. Certain medications (narcotics and muscle relaxants) used to treat orthopedic conditions can produce or worsen somnolence, discoordination, and disequilibrium.

A.9.12.1 The fire fighter works in hazardous environments, both on the fire ground and during other emergency operations. Heavy debris can fall on the fire fighter. The helmet offers some protection when it fits well and is worn properly. The fire fighter with a defect in the skull is more vulnerable to head trauma and life-threatening sudden incapacitation. The fire fighter is also exposed to biological aerosols, particulates, smoke, and hazardous materials. Defects in the structure of the face, nose, mouth, or throat can prevent acceptable fit testing of a respirator (N-95, P-100, or SCBA).

A.9.12.3.1 Diseases of the eye such as retinal detachment, progressive retinopathy, optic neuritis (severe or progressive), macular degeneration, cataracts, and glaucoma can result in the failure to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations. Evaluation of visual acuity and visual fields with consultation by an ophthalmologist is suggested.

Ophthalmological procedures such as radial keratotomy and repair of retinal detachment require sufficient time (approximately 2 weeks for radial keratotomy and Lasik-type surgery and 3 months for retinal detachment) to allow stabilization of visual acuity and to ensure that there are no post-surgical complications. Members should be cleared for duty by the ophthalmologic surgeon who understands the essential job tasks associated with fire fighting. These ophthalmological procedures can result in the failure to be able to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations.

The fire service physician should also consider any color vision deficiency of the member in view of the color vision requirements of the member's specific job in a given fire department.

A.9.12.3.1(1) Far visual acuity is at least 20/40 binocular, corrected with contact lens or spectacles. Far visual acuity uncorrected is at least 20/100 binocular for wearers of hard contacts or spectacles. Successful long-term soft contact lens wearers (i.e., 6 months without a problem) are not subject to the uncorrected standard. Inadequate far visual acuity can result in the failure to be able to read placards and street signs or to see and respond to imminently hazardous situations. Successful soft contact lens wearers are not subject to the uncorrected standard.

A.9.12.3.1(3) Most persons with monocular vision, after a 6-month accommodation period, are able to function well. There is some loss of depth perception and peripheral vision. The loss of depth perception has not been shown to be of a type that will affect a member's ability to safely perform essential fire-fighting tasks. Some very specialized tasks can be difficult to safely perform, and the fire service physician should consider the depth of field deficiency of the individual and

consider the depth of field requirements of the member's job in order to reach an individual determination. It should be noted that the FAA will award all classes of pilot's licenses to monocular pilots. The loss of peripheral vision is compensated for by increased scanning and head movements. There are studies that show some detriment of driving function in the driving lab. As of the writing of this section the DOT does not allow monocular persons to hold a commercial driver's license. In view of this and the increased dependence on visual cues when driving emergency vehicles, monocular fire fighters should be restricted from driving fire apparatus and other emergency vehicles.

▲ A.9.12.4.1 Audiometric pure tone threshold testing includes the frequencies 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, 3000 Hz, 4000 Hz, and 6000 Hz. Tests are performed using audiometric instrumentation calibrated to ANSI S3.6, *Specification for Audiometers*.

Fire fighters should have adequate hearing to hear a victim cry for help, to hear a PASS alarm, to hear noises associated with imminent collapse, or to hear noise associated with changes in the fire pattern. Hearing and the ability to localize sounds is crucial in a fire-fighting environment where smoke often minimizes visual cues, and there is a high degree of background noise and stress-related distractions. Fire fighters should be able to hear fire department portable and vehicle radio communications. They should be able to hear, discriminate, and localize safety-related acoustic cues such as air horns, sirens, screams, collapsing walls, beams, timbers, or gas leaks to safely perform their critical job tasks during fire suppression and fire rescue.

These critical job tasks need to be safely performed under conditions of extreme background noise and SCBA noise as typically found at the incident scene. The inability to hear sounds of low intensity or to distinguish voice from background noise can lead to failure to respond to imminently hazardous situations and thus lead to life-threatening sudden incapacitation to the member or others depending on the member.

■ A.9.12.4.2 There are several reasons that the use of hearing assistive devices might not be appropriate for the hearing impaired member, including the following:

- (1) Hearing assistive devices do not restore normal hearing.
- (2) Hearing assistive devices cannot compensate for asymmetrical hearing loss, and thus will not totally resolve the difficulty in sound localization of those with asymmetric hearing loss.
- (3) Hearing assistive devices will improve hearing in noise (e.g., fire scene, rescue scene, traffic), but this noise will always be the most challenging environment for a hearing-impaired member.
- (4) It is unknown if hearing assistive devices will continue to function normally when exposed to the heat, moisture, and smoke of the fire scene.

Understanding the above limitations, hearing assistive devices will improve a hearing-impaired member's hearing functioning. Thus, it is the consensus of the technical committee that members should be allowed to use hearing assistive devices if their unaided average hearing loss in the unaided better ear is better than 40 decibels (dB) at 500 Hz, 1000 Hz, 2000 Hz, and 3000 Hz. If the device fails, the member will still have sufficient hearing acuity to meet 9.12.4.2, the minimum hearing standard.

A.9.12.5.1 Intact gait and balance are required to safely perform critical tasks such as climbing stairs, carrying heavy items (tools, equipment, victims, stretchers), climbing ladders, and walking on narrow/elevated/inclined areas (roofs). A fire fighter's balance can be further stressed by the need to safely perform these critical job tasks wearing personal protective clothing and SCBA.

Any symptomatic balance disturbance, vertigo, change of gait and coordination, or history of these that has not resolved completely should be fully investigated. Examples include but are not limited to Ménière's syndrome, severe labyrinthitis, and cerebellar syndromes. Current use of medications needs careful evaluation to be certain that the condition is completely controlled and that the side effects of the medication do not impose additional unacceptable risks for the successful and safe performance of critical job tasks.

A.9.12.6.1 The face, nasal, oropharyngeal, and dental structures should be of sufficient structure and function to allow the proper use and fitting of required respiratory protection (N-95, P-100, SCBA) and other protective clothing and gear. These structures should allow sufficient function for proper nutrition, balance, communication, and respiration. Aphonia, severe dysphonia, or a speech pattern that prevents oral communication during fire or emergency operations should resolve or be corrected.

Anosmia (loss of smell) can interfere with the ability to safely perform critical tasks on the fire ground. Evaluation of anosmia is difficult, as objective testing is not available in most medical settings.

Recurrent sinusitis (severe, requiring repeated hospitalizations or repeat surgery) can interfere with the successful and safe performance of critical tasks due to inability to effectively wear SCBA and inability to safely perform other critical tasks during emergency operations due to limitations of pain, endurance, or respiration.

Severe and recurrent epistaxis can prevent successful and safe performance of critical tasks due to inability to wear SCBA on the fire ground.

Orthodontic and certain other maxillofacial appliances or prostheses can preclude safe and effective use of protective equipment and compromise nutritional or hydration status or ability to communicate.

Pharyngeal or laryngeal stenosis, mass, or accessory tissues can interfere with speech, communication, or respiration, which will not permit the successful and safe performance of critical tasks on the fire ground and during emergency operations, especially when wearing SCBA and personal protective clothing.

A.9.12.6.2 Untreated obstructive sleep apnea is associated with fatigue, cognitive defects, pulmonary hypertension, hypertrophic heart disease, arrhythmias, and early onset dementia. These issues can reduce the ability to perform all essential job tasks. Risk factors for developing obstructive sleep apnea include male gender, increased body mass index (BMI), short/wide neck, and/or narrow throat. Screening questionnaires, such as the Berlin Questionnaire (assessing snoring, fatigue, obesity and hypertension) can be used to determine those who require formal sleep testing. In those with obstructive sleep apnea, additional testing is required to determine the level of positive pressure (CPAP or BIPAP) required to overcome the

obstruction. Compliance with treatment can be assessed using home monitoring devices attached to the CPAP or BIPAP machine. Target organ damage can be screened for by cardiac echo for evidence of pulmonary hypertension or right ventricular hypertrophy.

A.9.13 Fire fighters with active, ongoing, or recurrent neurologic disorders can have difficulty following orders, communicating information, and working in a coordinated manner with workers, victims, and involved civilians (essential job tasks 11, 12, and 13). Fire fighters with neurologic disturbances can also have difficulty with fatigue, somnolence, cognitive function, motor strength, sensation, coordination, gait, and equilibrium, all required to safely perform essential job tasks. The fire fighter often is exposed to considerable stress (temperature, physical exertion, and psychological) during emergency operations. Stress conditions can exacerbate or highlight neurologic deficiencies when the fire fighter is performing essential job tasks rapidly during an emergency operation where there is little room for error and where such errors can have life-threatening consequences for the fire fighter, colleagues, or victims. Removing oneself from the scene, even temporarily, can significantly impact on the success of the operation. Medications used to treat neurologic conditions can frequently produce or worsen somnolence, discoordination, and/or disequilibrium.

A.9.13.4.1 Cerebral vascular insufficiency includes the spectrum of syndromes from transient ischemic attack (TIA) to stroke, and its cause should be investigated. If due to arteriovenous malformation, cerebral aneurysm, or bleeding, then see specific recommendations. If due to hypertension, then this is evidence of end organ disease. Stroke does not permit safe performance of essential job tasks (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13) since the physiological stress associated with strenuous physical exertion can increase the likelihood for new strokes leading to life-threatening sudden incapacitation. Cerebral vascular insufficiency can affect control of respiration, cognitive abilities, communication, motor strength, sensation, coordination, and equilibrium. If stroke is due to embolic disease, then risk factors (hypercoagulable state, collagen vascular disease, carotid vascular disease, patent foramen ovale, cardiac disease) need to be evaluated. Ability to safely perform essential job tasks is based on an evaluation of current neurologic status, treatment, and any contributory underlying conditions. (For example, Warfarin and other anticoagulant treatment regimens do not allow the safe performance of essential job task 8.)

A.9.13.5.1 Myasthenia gravis could compromise a member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. In considering performance of essential job tasks, the impact of the operational environment (heat, stress, activity, duration, variable night shifts, etc.) on exacerbations should be considered and specifically addressed by a knowledgeable neurological specialist and the fire department physician. The neurologist must indicate that the member's cognitive function and neurological exam are normal and the member is off all drug treatment. The member cannot safely perform essential job tasks if there is evidence of respiratory muscle weakness or prior episode of respiratory muscle weakness in the last 3 years. The member cannot safely perform essential job tasks if on drug treatment for myasthenia including corticosteroids, cytotoxic drugs (e.g., Imuran®), and/or plasmapheresis; these treatments indicate that disease is still

active and likelihood for exacerbation and life-threatening sudden incapacitation exists during emergency operations.

A.9.13.6.1 Epilepsy is defined as the presence of “unprovoked, recurrent seizures — paroxysmal disorders of the central nervous system characterized by an abnormal cerebral neuronal discharge with or without loss of consciousness.” Generalized, complex, partial, simple epilepsy, or recurrent seizures, even those that do not impair consciousness, prevent safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 because of the uncertainty regarding how much of the brain could be involved and the risk of propagation to other regions of the brain, particularly in the highly epileptogenic environment of the fire ground.

Treatment of patients with epilepsy is only variably successful, with roughly 40 percent of patients attaining remission on anticonvulsant therapy. Remission is defined as 5 years without recurrence of seizure activity. Further complicating the fitness-for-duty issue is the fact that only 50 percent of patients who achieve remission do so without toxic side effects of the anticonvulsant drug.

As much as 10 percent of the population will experience at least one seizure in a lifetime, whereas less than 1 percent of the population qualifies for a diagnosis of epilepsy.

Many conditions producing seizures in the pediatric age group are known to remit prior to adulthood, and many adults sustain a reactive seizure that can be attributed to a reversible, underlying precipitant. These circumstances do not necessarily represent an ongoing risk of sudden, unpredictable incapacitation of a member. After a provoked seizure, with the precipitant identified and alleviated, the member can be cleared for duty if anticonvulsants are not prescribed and the conditions described in 9.13.6.1(2) through 9.13.6.1(5) are met.

A.9.13.7.1 The cause of cerebral bleed needs to be determined. If due to hypertensive bleed, then this is evidence for target organ disease. Hypertension with target organ disease does not permit safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, as the hypertension and stress associated with strenuous physical exertion can increase the likelihood for new bleeds and strokes leading to life-threatening sudden incapacitation due to central nervous system instability affecting control of respiration, cognitive abilities, communication, motor skills, sensory abilities, coordination, and equilibrium.

Arteriovenous malformation or cerebral aneurysm does not allow for the safe performance of essential job tasks 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 since hypertension and stress associated with strenuous physical exertion can increase the likelihood for acute rupture and stroke leading to life-threatening sudden incapacitation. Members can safely return to duty after evaluation by a neurosurgeon if resection was successful, exam and imaging studies are normal (except for surgical site), and EEG shows no epileptic activity off all anticonvulsant medications.

A.9.13.8.1 Essential job tasks 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 might not be performed safely unless after evaluation by a specialist it is concluded that exam is normal and imaging studies are normal. If trauma produced seizures, then see recommendations for seizures in A.9.13.6.1.

A.9.14 Fire fighters perform individually and as a team. Fire fighters with active, ongoing or recurrent, psychiatric and/or psychological conditions can have difficulty following orders,

communicating information, and working in a coordinated manner with workers, victims, and involved civilians. The fire fighter with a personality disorder might not respond appropriately to command structure or adequately control his/her interpersonal behavior. Behavior that undermines command structure, group function, and/or group cohesion is not safe to the member or others performing essential job tasks. Fire fighters are exposed to gruesome tragedy during emergency operations, further exacerbating the stress of the job. Removing oneself from the scene, even temporarily, can significantly impact on the success of an emergency operation. Medications used to treat psychiatric or psychological conditions can produce or worsen somnolence, impair coordination, and predispose to heat stress.

A.9.15 Substance abuse interferes with cognitive functions, energy, command structure, communication, strength, sensation, gait, coordination, and equilibrium, and therefore compromises the member's ability to safely perform essential job tasks 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. There is increased risk for auto accidents when driving departmental vehicles. Dehydration, arrhythmia, and disequilibrium can be life threatening in a toxic/traumatic/stress environment. Fire fighting requires members to perform independently and in coordination with others. Behavior that undermines command structure, group function, and/or group cohesion during emergency operations is not safe to the member or others at the scene.

▲ A.9.18.2 Medical Information Regarding Issues Related to Pregnancy in Fire Fighters. The following information is intended to help female fire fighters make informed decisions regarding their job activities if they are pregnant or considering pregnancy. The majority of pregnant fire fighters will be able to continue to work throughout pregnancy, with some accommodations. They should discuss with their treating physician any individual conditions that may require limitation of activities during pregnancy.

The following occupational hazards can have adverse effects at any time during pregnancy:

- (1) Products of combustion, especially carbon monoxide
- (2) Excessive heat
- (3) Other toxic chemicals, including prolonged exposure to vehicular exhaust
- (4) Trauma (even simple falls)

First trimester. In addition to the above, there are no other activities with an adverse effect. The risk to the fetus created by heat is highest during the first two months of pregnancy.

Second trimester. In addition to the above, the following activities may have adverse effects:

- (1) Alternating shift work, prolonged standing, and heavy lifting
- (2) Noise exposure

Third trimester. In addition to the above, there are no other activities with an adverse effect. Activities that involve or require aerobic fitness, speed, agility, and balance can be adversely affected by body changes during pregnancy.

Personal protective equipment. PPE is not designed to protect the fetus. The PPE fitted pre-pregnancy might not offer the same level of protection during pregnancy and might need to be refitted.

Post-delivery. Return-to-work decisions should be based on an individualized evaluation of the member's current status, the requirements of her work assignment, and the type of delivery and its complications.

Lactation. Exposure to toxic substances might result in the substances being present in breast milk.

Annex B Guide for Fire Department Administrators

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

B.1 Legal Considerations in Applying the Standard. The consideration of an application or continued employment of a member based on medical or physical performance evaluations involves a determination that is not without legal implications. To this end, prior to making an adverse employment decision based on the current standard, the authority with jurisdiction might wish to consult with legal counsel.

B.1.1 Legal Protections for Individuals with Handicaps or Disabilities. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 791 et seq., and implementing regulations prohibit discrimination against those with handicaps or disabilities under any program receiving financial assistance from the federal government. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq., also prohibits employment discrimination by certain private employers against individuals with disabilities. In addition, many states have enacted legislation prohibiting discrimination against those with handicaps or disabilities. Generally speaking, these laws prevent the exclusion, denial of benefits, refusal to hire or promote, or other discriminatory conduct against an individual based on a handicap or disability, where the individual involved can, with or without reasonable accommodation, perform the essential functions of the job without creating undue hardship on the employer or program involved.

Beginning in 1999, the United States Supreme Court has issued a series of decisions limiting the scope of the ADA. As a result, persons with certain kinds of impairments that are mitigated by corrective measures such as medication for high blood pressure or eyeglasses for myopia are not "disabled" under the ADA. See *Sutton v. United Airlines, Inc.*, 527 U.S. 471 (1999); *Murphy v. United Parcel Service, Inc.*, 118 S. Ct. 2133 (1999); and *Albertsons, Inc. v. Kirkingburg*, 527 U.S. 555 (1999). More recently the Supreme Court held that an impairment is not a disability covered by the ADA unless it severely restricts a person from doing activities that are of central importance to most people's daily lives. See *Toyota Motor Mfg., Kentucky, Inc. v. Williams*, 534 U.S. 184 (2002). These cases significantly limit the persons who can claim the protections of the federal ADA, but do not, by any means, eliminate the ADA as an important consideration in fire service-related employment decisions. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that separate disability protections exist under laws of many states, and some of these laws have been interpreted to afford greater protections than that afforded by the ADA. See, for example, *Dahill v. Boston Department of Police*, 434 Mass. 233 (2001), where the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts ruled that a corrective device to alleviate a disability is not relevant in determining whether someone is disabled under the state's disability law.

The disability discrimination laws, therefore, continue to be an important part of the legal framework that governs employment-related decisions. Although this standard has been

developed with this in mind, these laws can, depending on the jurisdiction and the circumstances, affect the degree to which the authority having jurisdiction can implement the standard in an individual case. Users of this standard should be aware that, while courts, in assessing disability discrimination claims, are likely to give considerable weight to the provisions of a nationally recognized standard such as NFPA 1582 [see, for example, *Miller v. Sioux Gateway Fire Department*, 497 N.W.2d 838 (1993)], reliance on the standard alone might not be sufficient to withstand a challenge to an adverse employment decision.

B.1.2 Legal Protections for Individuals Who Are Members of Protected Classes (Race, Sex, Color, Religion, or National Origin). Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, and implementing regulations by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) prohibit discrimination in employment on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, or national origin (i.e., protected classes). Under Title VII, an “employer” is defined, generally, to mean a person with “15 or more employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year” (42 U.S.C. § 2000e). Several federal jurisdictions have held that unpaid volunteers are not considered to be “employees” under Title VII.

Additionally, many states, cities, and localities have adopted similar legislation. Generally, physical performance or other requirements that result in “adverse impact” on members of a protected class (e.g., on the basis of gender) are required to be validated through a study in accordance with EEOC guidelines, if such requirements are to be relied on in making employment decisions. Under EEOC guidelines, a study validating employment standards in one jurisdiction can be transportable to another jurisdiction (and therefore used in lieu of conducting a separate study). However, specific preconditions must be met in this regard, and the authority having jurisdiction should seek the advice of counsel before relying on a transported validation study.

B.1.2.1 Pregnancy and Reproduction. Federal regulations, as well as many court decisions, including the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *International Union, et al. v. Johnson Controls, Inc.* [499 U.S. 187, 111 S. Ct. 1196 (1991)], have interpreted the requirements of Title VII with respect to pregnancy and reproduction. The AHJ should seek the advice of counsel in resolving specific questions concerning these requirements as well as other requirements that can be imposed by state or local laws.

B.2 Determining Essential Job Tasks. The medical requirements in this edition of the standard were revised based on the essential job tasks contained in Chapter 5 and Chapter 9. It is recognized that some fire-fighting functions and tasks can vary from location to location due to differences in department size, functional and organizational differences, geography, level of urbanization, equipment utilized, and other factors. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each individual fire department to document, through job analysis, the essential job functions that are performed in the local jurisdiction.

There are a wide variety of job analytic techniques available to document the essential functions of the job of a member. However, at a minimum, any method utilized should be current, in writing, and meet the provisions of the Department of Labor regulations [29 CFR 1630.2(n)(3)]. Job descriptions should focus on critical and important work behaviors and specific tasks and functions. The frequency and/or duration of

task performance and the consequences of failure to safely perform the task should be specified. The working conditions and environmental hazards in which the work is performed should be described.

The job description should be made available to the fire department physician for use during the pre-placement medical examination for the individual determination of the medical suitability of applicants for membership.

B.3 Choosing a Fire Department Physician. Several factors should be considered in choosing a fire department physician. There are relatively few physicians with formal residency training and certification in occupational medicine. The fire department physician should be qualified to provide professional expertise in the areas of occupational safety and health as these areas relate to emergency services. For the purpose of conducting medical evaluations, the fire department physician should understand the physiological and psychological demands placed on members as well as the environmental conditions under which members have to perform.

Knowledge of occupational medicine and experience with occupational health programs are essential for physicians not formally trained in occupational medicine.

The physician must be committed to meeting the requirements of the program, including appropriate record keeping. The physician’s willingness to work with the department to continually improve the program is also important. Finally, the physician’s concern and interest in the program and in the individuals in the program are vital.

The following are some of the many options for obtaining physician services:

- (1) Physicians can be paid on a service basis or through a contractual arrangement.
- (2) For volunteer departments, local physicians might be willing to volunteer their services for the program, with other arrangements for payment of laboratory testing, x-rays, and so forth.
- (3) Some departments might utilize a local health care facility for medical care. However, in that case, the department should have one individual physician responsible for the program, record keeping, and so forth.
- (4) A military reserve or a National Guard unit can be used.

B.4 Coordinating the Medical Evaluation Program. An individual from within the department should be assigned the responsibility for managing the health and fitness program, including the coordination and scheduling of evaluations and examinations. This person should also act as liaison between the department and the physician to make sure that each has the information necessary for decisions about placement, scheduling appointments, and so forth.

B.5 Confidentiality. Confidentiality of all medical data is critical to the success of the program. Members need to feel assured that the information provided to the physician will not be inappropriately shared. No fire department supervisor or manager should have access to medical records without the express written consent of the member. There are occasions, however, when specific medical information is needed to make a decision about placement, return to work, and so forth, and a fire department manager should have more medical information for decision making. In that situation, written medical

consent should be obtained from the member to release the specific information necessary for that decision.

Budgetary constraints can affect the medical program. Therefore, it is important that components of the program be prioritized such that essential elements are not lost. With additional funding, other programs or testing can be added to enhance the program.

Annex C Protocols for Evaluation of Fitness of Members

This annex is not a part of the requirements of this NFPA document but is included for informational purposes only.

Δ C.1 Annual Fitness Evaluation. The copyrighted material in C.1.1 is extracted from Chapter 4 of NFPA 1583, 2008 edition.

C.1.1 General.

C.1.1.1 All members shall participate in a periodic fitness assessment under supervision of the department health and fitness coordinator (HFC) and shall provide the HFC with data on which to base individual exercise prescription.

C.1.1.2 The fitness assessment shall be conducted at least annually.

C.1.2 Fitness Assessment.

C.1.2.1 All members shall be cleared for participation in the fitness assessment by the fire department physician.

C.1.2.2 If a member has an acute medical problem or a newly acquired chronic medical condition, the fitness assessment shall be postponed until that person has recovered from this condition and presents to the fire department for review.

C.1.3 Pre-Assessment Questionnaire. The HFC shall administer to all members a pre-assessment questionnaire that seeks to identify contraindications for participation in the fitness assessment and department exercise training program.

C.1.4 Fitness Assessment Components. The annual fitness assessments shall consist of the following components:

- (1) Aerobic capacity
- (2) Body composition
- (3) Muscular strength
- (4) Muscular endurance
- (5) Flexibility

C.1.4.1 Sample Assessment Protocols for the Health-Related Components of Fitness. The following examples of assessment protocols for health-related components of fitness vary in terms of ease of administration, safety, cost, and predictive value:

- (1) Aerobic capacity
 - (a) 1-mile walk
 - (b) 1.5-mile run/walk
 - (c) 12-minute run
 - (d) Step test (various)
 - (e) Stairclimbing machine
 - (f) Cycle ergometer (various)
 - (g) Treadmill (various)
- (2) Percentage of body fat
 - (a) Skinfold (various)
 - (b) Circumference (various)
 - (c) Bioimpedance (BIA)
 - (d) Hydrostatic weighing

- (e) Body mass index (optional)
 - (f) Waist-to-hip ratio (optional)
- (3) Muscular strength
 - (a) Handgrip dynamometer
 - (b) Static bicep curl with dynamometer
 - (c) Static leg press with dynamometer
 - (d) Bench press (1 rep maximum or percent of body weight)
 - (e) Leg press (1 rep maximum or percent of body weight)
- (4) Muscular endurance
 - (a) Push-ups
 - (b) Modified push-ups
 - (c) Pull-ups
 - (d) Bent knee sit-ups
 - (e) Crunches given time
 - (f) Crunches to cadence
- (5) Flexibility
 - (a) Sit and reach
 - (b) Modified sit and reach
 - (c) Trunk extension
 - (d) Shoulder elevation

C.2 Annual Fitness Evaluation. The copyrighted material in this section is reprinted with permission from the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) *Fire Service Joint Labor-Management Wellness-Fitness Initiative*.

Δ C.2.1 Fitness Evaluation Protocols for Members. The following mandatory fitness protocols **should** be used to determine the member's baseline level of fitness and to evaluate progress from year to year. Fitness evaluations **should** be under the auspices of the fire department physician. The actual evaluations are permitted to be conducted by the fire department's fitness personnel. All data collected by the evaluator is to be held confidential and maintained in the member's confidential medical file. The evaluator can provide exercise programs to encourage the members to maintain or improve their level of fitness.

There are many protocols currently available to measure the **sub-maximal** VO₂ levels of apparently healthy individuals. These protocols differ in evaluation equipment (i.e., treadmill, stepmill, and stationary bike), rate of increasing work output, degree of increasing work output, and final result. To increase the consistency of VO₂ measurements, as well as the accuracy of the data collected between members within and between participating fire departments, one of the two following **sub-maximal** protocols is to be used to predict maximum aerobic capacity. The WFI Treadmill Protocol and WFI Stepmill Protocol were specifically developed and validated to evaluate the sub-maximal aerobic capacity of members.

After continued evaluation and research by the IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative's technical experts, it was determined that significant errors were occurring when past protocols were applied to a population that has different characteristics from those for which the evaluation was developed. For this reason, the Bruce and Balke Treadmill Protocols were removed as evaluation protocols and as a means to collect data. Both were specifically tailored for less-fit populations to determine cardiovascular pathology and thus proved to be less accurate protocols for the general members population. The YMCA Stationary Bike Test Protocol was also removed since it consistently and grossly underestimated VO₂ for above average body

size (i.e., most members). The Canadian Step Test was also removed since it relies on a single-stage exercise that was found to underestimate measurement of member's VO_2 . The Gerkin protocol was removed because it was found to provide values that were somewhat variable and inconsistent with other proven measures of cardiovascular fitness.

A maximal cardiopulmonary evaluation with an electrocardiogram (ECG) **should** be permitted to be used to obtain VO_2 measurements. This medical evaluation **should** only be conducted in a medical facility with proper monitoring by a physician and available resuscitation equipment.

The muscular endurance evaluations were also modified. In order to improve the accuracy of the evaluation and the data collection, the sit-and-hold evaluation was eliminated. The sit-up and curl-up protocols were changed to the static plank evaluation in order to ensure the safety of the participant and to improve the specificity of the evaluation. The push-up evaluation was modified to now include the option of the alternate grip push-up evaluation, to ensure participant safety and uniformity in data collection. The alternate grip push-up was added for individuals with a history of hand, wrist or shoulder injuries.

The flexibility evaluation was modified to address the difference in limb length and/or differences in proportion between an individual's arm and legs.

The IAFF/IAFC Wellness-Fitness Initiative's technical experts have evaluated all equipment utilized in these fitness protocols. The technical experts found either accuracy, maintenance, or availability problems with some evaluation equipment. Manufacturer's information and product names are included in each protocol. Unless indicated, this equipment must not be substituted with other equipment. All equipment must be maintained and properly calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Members must be fully recovered from the previous evaluation before proceeding to the next evaluation. The evaluation events can be sequenced to minimize the effects of previous evaluations on subsequent evaluation performance. If evaluations for body composition, aerobic capacity, muscular strength, muscle endurance, and flexibility are to be evaluated in one evaluation battery, the following sequence should be used after completing mandatory pre-evaluation procedures:

- (1) Body composition
- (2) Aerobic capacity
- (3) Muscular strength/power
- (4) Muscle endurance
- (5) Flexibility

The following is a mandatory pre-evaluation procedure. It **should** be conducted for all members prior to conducting the fitness evaluations:

- (1) Review and confirm individual's current medical status. It is required that all members are medically cleared through this standard's medical evaluation within 12 (\pm 3) months prior to any fitness evaluation.
- (2) Notify members in advance of the scheduled time and place of physical fitness evaluations. The individual should understand the protocol and what is expected before, during, and after the evaluation, including start and stop procedures. **The individual** will be required to wear comfortable clothes and either sneakers or athletic

shoes. All members must refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, and any physical activity prior to the evaluation to ensure accurate heart rate and blood pressure measurements.

- (3) Obtain a resting heart rate and blood pressure prior to aerobic capacity evaluation. If resting heart rate exceeds 110 beats per minute and/or resting blood pressure exceeds 160/100 mm Hg, ask the individual to relax in a quiet place for 5 minutes and re-test. If the heart rate and/or blood pressure remain at these levels, cancel the fitness evaluation and refer the individual to the fire department physician. If the retest indicates a reduction in heart rate and blood pressure, the evaluation can be given. The aerobic capacity protocols also require that age and weight in kilograms be obtained prior to the evaluation.
- (4) Review health status with the individual being evaluated. Contraindications for evaluations **must** be reviewed, addressing any changes in the individual's health status since their last medical evaluation that would warrant deferring the evaluation, including the following:
 - (a) Chest pain during or absence of physical activity
 - (b) Loss of consciousness
 - (c) Loss of balance due to dizziness (ataxia)
 - (d) Recent injury resulting in bone, joint, or muscle problem
 - (e) Current prescribed drug that inhibits physical activity
 - (f) Chronic infectious disease (e.g., hepatitis)
 - (g) Pregnancy
 - (h) Any recent disorders that can be exacerbated by exercise
 - (i) Any other reason why the individual believes that he or she should not be physically evaluated

▲ C.2.1.1 Aerobic Capacity. Treadmill. Submaximal treadmill evaluations shall use the WFI Treadmill Protocol. The treadmill should be a commercial treadmill capable of obtaining a 15-percent grade and 10 mph. A heart rate monitor or equivalent shall be used for heart rate measurements and a stopwatch used for timing.

Stepmill. Submaximal stepmill evaluations shall use the WFI Stepmill Protocol. The stepmill shall be a Stairmaster Stepmill SM-916 or 7000 PT. A heart rate monitor shall be used for heart rate measurements and a stopwatch used for timing.

Treadmill. Maximal treadmill evaluations shall use a continuous, multigrade medical cardiovascular protocol utilizing an electrocardiogram (ECG) for cardiac measurements. This evaluation must be under the direct supervision of a physician. The treadmill shall be a commercial treadmill capable of obtaining a 25-percent grade.

All aerobic capacity evaluation results must be recorded in milliliters (ml) of oxygen per kilogram (kg) of body weight per minute ($\text{VO}_{2\text{max}}$).

- (1) Choose the aerobic capacity protocol and worksheet.
- (2) Inform the fire fighter of all evaluation components.
- (3) Ensure that the individual is in proper clothing and footwear, is comfortable, and understands all facets of the evaluation.
- (4) Review all indicators for stopping the evaluation with the individual.

- (5) Place and secure heart rate monitor transmitter around individual's chest, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions; evaluator shall hold or wear the heart rate monitor wrist receiver.
- (6) Measure the fire fighter's resting heart rate and resting blood pressure and record on the protocol worksheet.
- (7) Obtain and record weight and age for both protocols.

Determine the participants **body mass index** (BMI). Refer to Table C.2.1.1(a).

N

[C.2.1.1a]

$$\text{BMI} = \frac{\text{Weight (kg)}}{\text{Height (m)}^2}$$

US:

N

[C.2.1.1b]

$$\text{BMI} = 703 \times \frac{\text{Weight (lb)}}{\text{Height (in.)}^2}$$

- (8) Determine 85 percent of the fire fighter's estimated maximum heart rate, which will be the target exercise heart rate [see Table C.2.1.1(b)], using the following equation:

$$\text{Target exercise heart rate} = [208 - (0.7 \times \text{age})] \times 0.85$$

Example: The target exercise heart rate of a 40-year-old individual is:

$$\text{Target exercise heart rate} = [208 - (0.7 \times 40)] \times 0.85 = 153$$

If instead, maximum heart rate (MHR) had been previously measured on this individual, then 85% predicted MHR on future occasions would be more accurately calculated as:

$$\text{Target exercise heart rate} = .85 (\text{MHR} - [\text{age when MHR determined} - \text{current age}])$$

- (9) Record the target exercise heart rate on the protocol worksheet

Table C.2.1.1(a) Body Mass Index (BMI)

BMI	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Height	Body Weight (pounds)																														
58" (4'10")	96	100	105	110	115	119	124	129	134	138	143	148	153	158	162	167	172	177	181	186	191	196	201	205	210	215	220	224	229	234	239
59" (4'11")	99	104	109	114	119	124	128	133	138	143	148	153	158	163	168	173	178	183	188	193	198	203	208	212	217	222	227	232	237	242	247
60" (5')	102	107	112	118	123	128	133	138	143	148	153	158	163	168	174	179	184	189	194	199	204	209	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	255
61" (5'1")	106	111	116	122	127	132	137	143	148	153	158	164	169	174	180	185	190	195	201	206	211	217	222	227	232	238	243	248	254	259	264
62" (5'2")	109	115	120	126	131	136	142	147	153	158	164	169	175	180	186	191	196	202	207	213	218	224	229	235	240	246	251	256	262	267	273
63" (5'3")	113	118	124	130	135	141	146	152	158	163	169	175	180	186	191	197	203	208	214	220	225	231	237	242	248	254	259	265	270	278	282
64" (5'4")	116	122	128	134	140	145	151	157	163	169	174	180	186	192	197	204	209	215	221	227	232	238	244	250	256	262	267	273	279	285	291
65" (5'5")	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	204	210	216	222	228	234	240	246	252	258	264	270	276	282	288	294	300
66" (5'6")	124	130	136	142	148	155	161	167	173	179	186	192	198	204	210	216	223	229	235	241	247	253	260	266	272	278	284	291	297	303	309
67" (5'7")	127	134	140	146	153	159	166	172	178	185	191	198	204	211	217	223	230	236	242	249	255	261	268	274	280	287	293	299	306	312	319
68" (5'8")	131	138	144	151	158	164	171	177	184	190	197	203	210	216	223	230	236	243	249	256	262	269	276	282	289	295	302	308	315	322	328
69" (5'9")	135	142	149	155	162	169	176	182	189	196	203	209	216	223	230	236	243	250	257	263	270	277	284	291	297	304	311	318	324	331	338
70" (5'10")	139	146	153	160	167	174	181	188	195	202	209	216	222	229	236	243	250	257	264	271	278	285	292	299	306	313	320	327	334	341	348
71" (5'11")	143	150	157	165	172	179	186	193	200	208	215	222	229	236	243	250	257	265	272	279	286	293	301	308	315	322	329	338	343	351	358
72" (6')	147	154	162	169	177	184	191	199	206	213	221	228	235	242	250	258	265	272	279	287	294	302	309	316	324	331	338	346	353	361	368
73" (6'1")	151	159	166	174	182	189	197	204	212	219	227	235	242	250	257	265	272	280	288	295	302	310	318	325	333	340	348	355	363	371	378
74" (6'2")	155	163	171	179	186	194	202	210	218	225	233	241	249	256	264	272	280	287	295	303	311	319	326	334	342	350	358	365	373	381	389
75" (6'3")	160	168	176	184	192	200	208	216	224	232	240	248	256	264	272	279	287	295	303	311	319	327	335	343	351	359	367	375	383	391	399
76" (6'4")	164	172	180	189	197	205	213	221	230	238	246	254	263	271	279	287	295	304	312	320	328	336	344	353	361	369	377	385	394	402	410
BMI	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

Table C.2.1.1(b) Target Heart Rate (THR) for Respective Age

Age (yrs)	THR (BPM)	Age (yrs)	THR (BPM)	Age (yrs)	THR (BPM)	Age (yrs)	THR (BPM)
18	166	29	160	40	153	51	146
19	165	30	159	42	152	52	146
20	165	31	158	42	152	53	145
21	164	32	158	43	151	54	145
22	164	33	157	44	151	55	144
23	163	34	157	45	150	56	143
24	163	35	156	46	149	57	143
25	162	36	155	47	149	58	142
26	161	37	155	48	148	59	142
27	161	38	154	49	148	60	141
28	160	39	154	50	147	61	140

THR Formula: $[208 - (0.7 \times 40)] \times 85$

Note: THR is used as endpoint in submaximal aerobic capacity protocols.

C.2.1.2 Body Composition.

Conduct pre-evaluation procedures. Obtain the participant's age. Note the gender-specific skinfold sites. Men are measured at the triceps, subscapular and pectoral sites; women are measured at the triceps, abdominal and suprailiac sites. All measurements should be made on the right side of the body, with the subject standing upright. Use the tape measure to mark the site to be measured with a water-soluble marker. Place calipers directly on the skin surface, 1 cm away from the thumb and finger; perpendicular to the skinfold; and halfway between the crest and base of the fold. Maintain pinch while reading the caliper. Wait 1–2 seconds (not longer) before reading caliper. Rotate through all three sites or allow time for skin to regain normal texture and thickness. Take two measurements at each site. If the values are less than 1 mm of each other then calculate the average of the two measurements. If the difference between the two measurements is greater than or equal to 1 mm, then a third measurement must be taken. If the differences between the three skinfold measurements are equal,

then calculate the average of all three measurements [e.g., (1) 6 mm, (2) 9 mm, (3) 12 mm the average of all three measurements is 9 mm]. If the three measurements are not equal distance apart, then calculate the average of the two closest measurements [e.g., (1) 7 mm, (2) 4 mm, (3) 5 mm the average is calculated for measurement #2 and #3 only. The average of the two measurements is 4.5 mm]. Once the skinfolds are collected for all three sites, calculate the sum of the average skinfold measurement for each site. (Note: Sites are specific to gender.) To determine body fat percentage, cross-reference the sum of skin folds with the subject's age on the appropriate chart provided in this section [males, Table C.2.1.2(a); females, Table C.2.1.2(b)].

C.2.1.2.1 Male Skinfold Sites.

Triceps — located at the midpoint between the acromioclavicular (AC) joint and the olecranon process (center of the elbow) on the posterior aspect of the upper arm. [See Figure C.2.1.2.1(a) and Figure C.2.1.2.1(b).]

▲ Table C.2.1.2(a) Percentage of Body Fat Estimate for Men Based on the Sum of Triceps, Subscapular, and Pectoral Skinfolds

Skinfolds Sum (mm)	Age up to Last Complete Year								
	Under 22	23–27	28–32	33–37	38–42	43–47	48–52	53–57	Over 57
8–10	1.5	2	2.5	3.1	3.6	4.1	4.6	5.1	5.6
11–13	3	3.5	4	4.5	5.1	5.6	6.1	6.6	7.1
14–16	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	7.6	8.1	8.6
17–19	5.9	6.4	6.9	7.4	8	8.5	9	9.5	10
20–22	7.3	7.8	8.3	8.8	9.4	9.9	10.4	10.9	11.4
23–25	8.6	9.2	9.7	10.2	10.7	11.2	11.8	12.3	12.8
26–28	10	10.5	11	11.5	12.1	12.6	13.1	13.6	14.2
29–31	11.2	11.8	12.3	12.8	13.4	13.9	14.4	14.9	15.5
32–34	12.5	13	13.5	14.1	14.6	15.1	15.7	16.2	16.7
35–37	13.7	14.2	14.8	15.3	15.8	16.4	16.9	17.4	18
38–40	14.9	15.4	15.9	16.5	17	17.6	18.1	18.6	19.2
41–43	16	16.6	17.1	17.6	18.2	18.7	19.3	19.8	20.3
44–46	17.1	17.7	18.2	18.7	19.3	19.8	20.4	20.9	21.5
47–49	18.2	18.7	19.3	19.8	20.4	20.9	21.4	22	22.5
50–52	19.2	19.7	20.3	20.8	21.4	21.9	22.5	23	23.6
53–55	20.2	20.7	21.3	21.8	22.4	22.9	23.5	24	24.6
56–58	21.1	21.7	22.2	22.8	23.3	23.9	24.4	25	25.5
59–61	22	22.6	23.1	23.7	24.2	24.8	25.3	25.9	26.5
62–64	22.9	23.4	24	24.5	25.1	25.7	26.2	26.8	27.3
64–67	23.7	24.3	24.8	25.4	25.9	26.5	27.1	27.6	28.2
68–70	24.5	25	25.6	26.2	26.7	27.3	27.8	28.4	29
71–73	25.2	25.8	26.3	26.9	27.5	28	28.6	29.1	29.7
74–76	25.9	26.5	27	27.6	28.2	28.7	29.3	29.9	30.4
77–79	26.6	27.1	27.7	28.2	28.8	29.4	29.9	30.5	31.1
80–82	27.2	27.7	28.3	28.9	29.4	30	30.6	31.1	31.7
83–85	27.7	28.3	28.8	29.4	30	30.5	31.1	31.7	32.3
86–88	28.2	28.8	29.4	29.9	30.5	31.1	31.6	32.2	32.8
89–91	28.7	29.3	29.8	30.4	31	31.5	32.1	32.7	33.3
92–94	29.1	29.7	30.3	30.8	31.4	32	32.6	33.1	33.4
95–97	29.5	30.1	30.6	31.2	31.8	32.4	32.9	33.5	34.1
98–100	29.8	30.4	31	31.6	32.1	32.7	33.3	33.9	34.4
101–103	30.1	30.7	31.3	31.8	32.4	33	33.6	34.1	34.7
104–106	30.4	30.9	31.5	32.1	32.7	33.2	33.8	34.4	35
107–109	30.6	31.1	31.7	32.3	32.9	33.4	34	34.6	35.2
110–112	30.7	31.3	31.9	32.4	33	33.6	34.2	34.7	35.3
113–115	30.8	31.4	32	32.5	33.1	33.7	34.3	34.9	35.4
116–118	30.9	31.5	32	32.6	33.2	33.8	34.3	34.9	35.5

Table C.2.1.2(b) Percentage of Body Fat Estimates for Women Based on the Sum of Triceps, Abdominal, and Suprailiac Skinfolts

Skinfolds	Age up to Last Complete Year								
Sum (mm)	18–22	23–27	28–32	33–37	38– 42	43–47	48–52	53–57	Over 57
8–12	8.8	9	9.2	9.4	9.5	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.3
13–37	10.8	10.9	11	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.8	12	12.2
18–22	12.6	12.8	13	13.2	13.4	13.5	13.7	13.9	14.1
23–27	14.5	14.6	14.8	15	15.2	15.4	15.6	15.7	15.9
28–32	16.2	16.4	16.6	16.8	17	17.1	17.3	17.5	17.7
33–37	17.9	18.1	18.3	18.5	18.7	18.9	19	19.2	19.4
38–42	19.6	19.8	20	20.2	20.3	20.5	20.7	20.9	21.1
43–47	21.2	21.4	21.6	21.8	21.9	22.1	22.3	22.5	22.7
48–52	22.8	22.9	23.1	23.3	23.5	23.7	23.8	24	24.2
53–57	24.2	24.4	24.6	24.8	25	25.2	25.3	25.5	25.7
58–62	25.7	25.9	26	26.2	26.4	26.6	26.8	27	27.1
63–67	27.1	27.2	27.4	27.6	27.8	28	28.2	28.3	28.5
68–72	28.4	28.6	28.7	28.9	29.1	29.3	29.5	29.7	29.8
73–77	29.6	29.8	30	30.2	30.4	30.6	30.7	30.9	31.1
78–82	30.9	31	31.2	31.4	31.6	31.8	31.9	32.1	32.3
83–87	32	32.2	32.4	32.6	32.7	32.9	33.1	33.3	33.5
88–92	33.1	33.3	33.5	33.7	33.8	34	34.2	34.4	34.6
93–97	34.1	34.3	34.5	34.7	34.9	35.1	35.2	35.4	35.6
98–102	35.1	35.3	35.5	35.7	35.9	36	36.2	36.4	36.6
103–107	36.1	36.2	36.4	36.6	36.8	37	37.2	37.3	37.5
108–112	36.9	37.1	37.3	37.5	37.7	37.9	38	38.2	38.4
113–117	37.8	37.9	38.1	38.3	39.2	39.4	39.6	39.8	39.2
118–122	38.5	38.7	38.9	39.1	39.4	39.6	39.8	40	40
123–127	39.2	39.4	39.6	39.8	40	40.1	40.3	40.5	40.7
128–132	39.9	40.1	40.2	40.4	40.6	40.8	41	41.2	41.3
133–137	40.5	40.7	40.8	41	41.2	41.4	41.6	41.7	41.9
138–142	41	41.2	41.4	41.6	41.7	41.9	42.1	42.3	42.5
143–147	41.5	41.7	41.9	42	42.2	42.4	42.6	42.8	43
148–152	41.9	42.1	42.3	42.8	42.6	42.8	43	43.2	43.4
153–157	43.3	42.5	42.6	42.8	43	43.2	43.4	43.6	43.7
158–162	42.6	42.8	43	43.1	43.3	43.5	43.7	43.9	44.1
163–167	42.9	43	43.2	43.4	43.6	43.8	44	44.1	44.3
168–172	43.1	43.2	43.4	43.6	43.8	44	44.2	44.3	44.5
173–177	43.2	43.4	43.6	43.8	43.9	44.1	44.3	44.5	44.7
178–182	43.3	43.5	43.7	43.8	44	44.2	44.4	44.6	44.8

Subscapular — located on the same diagonal line as the inferior border of the scapula, 2 cm beyond the inferior angle. [See Figure C.2.1.2.1(c) and Figure C.2.1.2.1(d).]

Pectoral — Located on a diagonal line, midway between the axillary fold and the right nipple. [See Figure C.2.1.2.1(e) and Figure C.2.1.2.1(f).]

C.2.1.2.2 Female Skinfold Sites.

Triceps — located at the midpoint between the acromioclavicular (AC) joint and the olecranon process (center of the elbow) on the posterior aspect of the upper arm. [See Figure C.2.1.2.2(a) and Figure C.2.1.2.2(b).]

Abdominal — located at the right of the umbilicus, on a vertical fold, 2 cm from the right lateral border. [See Figure C.2.1.2.2(c) and Figure C.2.1.2.2(d).]

Suprailiac — located on a diagonal line, 1–2 cm anterior to the crest of the pelvis (ASIS). Grasp a diagonal skinfold just above and slightly forward of the crest of the ilium. [See Figure C.2.1.2.2(e) and Figure C.2.1.2.2(f).]

▲ C.2.1.3 Submaximal Graded Treadmill Evaluation (WFI Treadmill Protocol).

- (1) Conduct pre-evaluation procedures.
- (2) The individual being evaluated is instructed to straddle the treadmill belt until it begins to move. At approximately 1 mph, the individual is instructed to step onto the belt and the belt speed is increased to 3 mph at 0 percent grade. The individual warms up at 3 mph at 0 percent grade for 3 minutes. During the warm up, the individual is informed that the evaluation is submaximal and will terminate once their monitored heart rate exceeds the target exercise heart rate for 15 seconds. The individual is informed that the target exercise heart rate is 85 percent of their predicted maximal heart rate. The individual is advised that the evaluation is a series of 1-minute exercise stages, alternating between percent grade and speed (i.e., first minute percent grade is increased, second minute speed is increased, etc.). Inform the individual that if at any time during the evaluation they experience chest pain, light-headedness, ataxia, confusion, nausea, or clamminess, they should ask the evaluator to terminate the evaluation.



FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(a) [Site of Male Skinfold Measurement — Triceps.]



FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(c) [Site of Male Skinfold Measurement — Subscapular.]

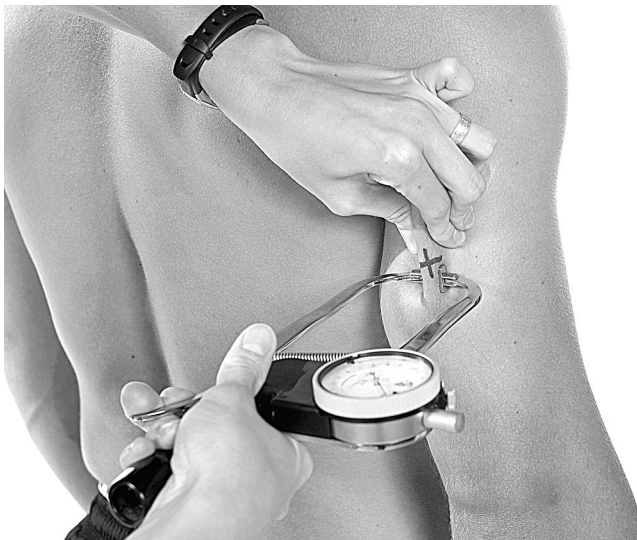


FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(b) [Triceps Measurement — Male.]

Start the stopwatch when the treadmill reaches 3 mph at 0% grade. Continue with this speed and grade for 3 minutes (steady state). After completing the 3-minute steady state interval, inform the participant that the speed will increase to 4.5 mph. Advise the participant that the assessment is a series of 1-minute intervals, alternating between speed and percent grade. All subsequent speed increases occur at 0.5 mph. At 4:01 minutes, increase the grade from 0% to 2%. At this time, inform the participant that all subsequent grade increases occur at 2% intervals. The assessment will continue until the participant's heart rate exceeds the THR rate for 15 seconds, or the subject exhibits the medical criteria for early termination. Once the heart rate exceeds the Target Heart Rate (THR), note the time and continue the assessment for an additional



FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(d) [Subscapular Measurement — Male.]

15 seconds. Do not make any changes to the assessment speed or grade during this time. If the participant's heart rate remains above the THR for the full 15 seconds, then stop the assessment and proceed to the cool-down phase. Record the total time, including the 3-minute warm-up, at which point the participant exceeds the THR. If the participant's heart rate exceeds the target, but then drops back to the THR or below within 15 seconds, then the assessment should continue. The assessment is not complete until the participant's heart rate exceeds the THR for 15 seconds. If this does not occur within 18 minutes, then terminate the assessment and record the time. Once the assessment is completed, the time is recorded. The participant should perform a cool-down for a minimum of 3 minutes at 3 mph, 0% grade. Continue to monitor the heart rate during the cool-down. Record the recovery heart rate at 1 minute of cool-down.



FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(e) [Site of Male Skinfold Measurement — Pectoral.]

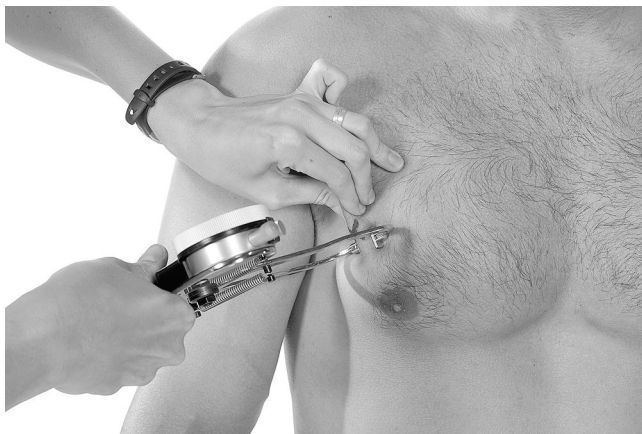


FIGURE C.2.1.2.1(f) [Pectoral Measurement — Male.]

Record the reason for terminating the assessment and the initial time the THR was exceeded (if applicable). Record time in minutes and convert second(s) into decimal.

See Treadmill Formula and Table C.2.1.3 below. Use the test time (TT) the participant completed the assessment (i.e. exceeded the THR) along with the treadmill conversion formula [$VO_2 \text{ max} = 56.981 + (1.242 \times TT) - (0.805 \times \text{BMI})$] to estimate $VO_2 \text{ max}$. Record the $VO_2 \text{ max}$.

Δ C.2.1.4 Submaximal Stepmill Evaluation (WFI Stepmill Protocol).

- (1) Conduct pre-evaluation procedures. Obtain and record individual's age in years and weight in kilograms.
- (2) The individual being evaluated is instructed to assume a starting position about two-thirds of the way up the stairs. The individual is instructed to temporarily grasp the handrails to reduce the possibility of losing balance when the stairs begin to move. The individual is also informed that holding or leaning on the handrails is not allowed



FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(a) [Site of Female Skinfold Measurement — Triceps.]



FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(b) [Triceps Measurement — Female.]



FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(c) [Site of Female Skinfold Measurement — Abdominals.]

once the evaluation begins since this will cause false overestimations of aerobic capacity.

- (3) The assessment starts at level 4 for 2 minutes, then level 5 for 1 minute (warm-up period). Start the stopwatch once the Stepmill begins. Inform the participant that the evaluation is a series of 1-minute intervals with increasing work loads on each subsequent minute. Once the assessment commences, do not allow the participant to hold or lean on the handrails; this will result in overestimation of aerobic capacity. At the completion of the 3 minute-warm-up, proceed to level 7 for 1 minute. *Note: This is marked by increasing the workload from level 5 to level 7. Once the heart rate exceeds the Target Heart Rate (THR), note the time and continue the assessment for an additional 15 seconds. Do not make any changes to the assessment intensity level during this time. If the participant's heart

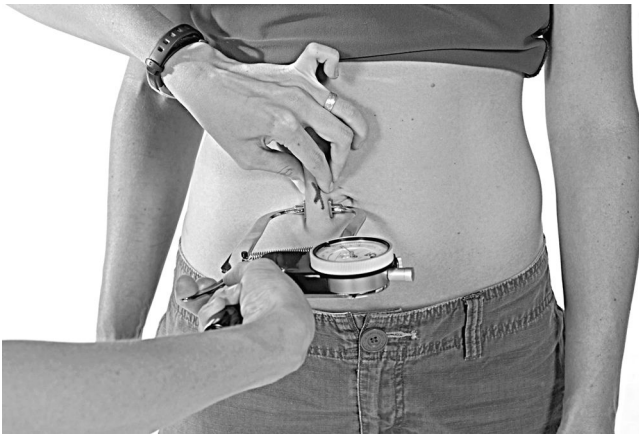


FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(d) [Abdominal Measurement — Female.]

rate remains above the THR for the full 15 seconds, then the participant has completed the assessment. Stop the assessment and record the time at which the participant exceeded the THR. The total Test Time (TT) begins from the time the participant starts on the Stepmill, to the point at which the participant exceeds their THR. It does not include the final 15 second monitoring period that the heart rate was above the THR. The assessment is complete once the participant's heart rate exceeds the target for 15 seconds. If the participant's heart rate exceeds the target, but then drops down to the THR or below within 15 seconds, then the assessment should continue. Once the assessment is completed, the participant will cool down for a minimum of 2 minutes at level 3. Continue to monitor the heart rate during the cool-down. Record the recovery heart rate at one minute of cool-down. The participant may grasp the handrails during the cool-down phase. Upon completion of the cool-down, instruct the participant to grasp the handrails. Stop the stepmill and assist the participant off the apparatus.

TERMINATE THE ASSESSMENT IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING OCCURS:

- (1) The participant's heart rate exceeds THR for 15 seconds.
- (2) The THR has not been met after 16 minutes.
- (3) The participant asks to terminate the exercise.
- (4) The equipment malfunctions.

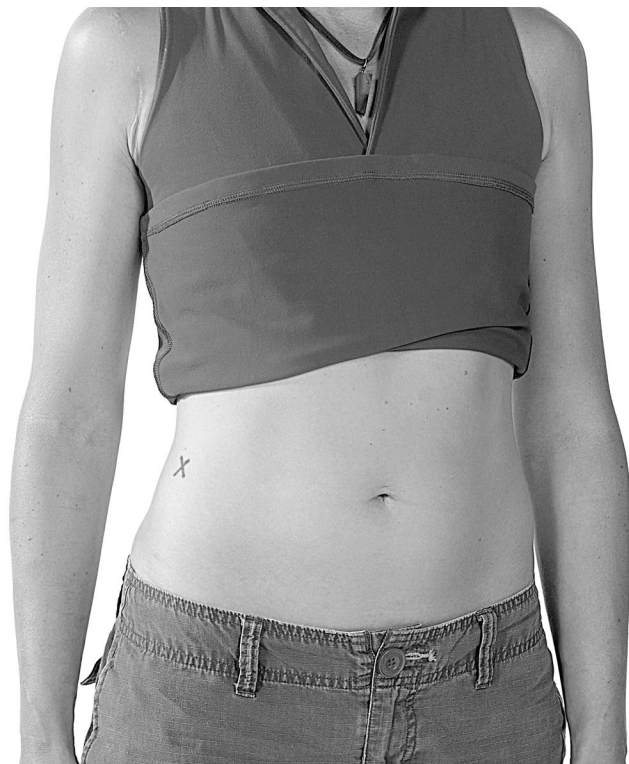


FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(e) [Site of Female Skinfold Measurement — Suprailiac.]



FIGURE C.2.1.2.2(f) [Suprailiac Measurement — Female.]

Medical conditions arise that prohibit completing the assessment. Record the reason for terminating the assessment and the initial time the heart rate had been exceeded (if applicable). Record time in minutes and convert second(s) into decimal (*see Table C.2.1.4*). Insert the test time (TT) at which the participant completed the assessment, along with the stepmill conversion formula to estimate VO_2 max. Record the VO_2 max.

Note: TT is the time in minutes that the participant's THR was exceeded and the test terminated Stepmill Submaximal VO_2 Prediction Formula.

$$[\text{VO}_{2\text{max}} = 57.774 + (1.757 \times \text{TT}) - (0.904 \times \text{BMI})]$$

C.2.1.5 Muscular Strength/Power. Hand grip strength evaluations shall use the following protocol. The hand grip dynamometer shall be a Jamar Hydraulic Hand dynamometer. [*See Figure C.2.1.5.*]

(1) Conduct pre-evaluation procedures.

(2) The individual being evaluated is instructed to towel hands to ensure they are dry. The individual is instructed to place dynamometer in the hand to be evaluated; the evaluator adjusts, ensuring that the bottom of the handle clip is adjusted to fit snug in the first proximal interphalangeal joint. The red

Table C.2.1.3 Treadmill Assessment

Time	Speed mph	% grade
0:00 – 1:00	3	0
1:01 – 2:00	3	0
2:01 – 3:00	3	0
3:01 – 4:00	4.5	0
4:01 – 5:00	4.5	2
5:01 – 6:00	5	2
6:01 – 7:00	5	4
7:01 – 8:00	5.5	4
8:01 – 9:00	5.5	6
9:01 – 10:00	6	6
10:01 – 11:00	6	8
11:01 – 12:00	6.5	8
12:01 – 13:00	6.5	10
13:01 – 14:00	7	10
14:01 – 15:00	7	12
15:01 – 16:00	7.5	12
16:01 – 17:00	7.5	14
17:01 – 18:00	8	14
Recovery Phase		
0:00 – 1:00	3	0
1:01 – 2:00	3	0
2:01 – 3:00	3	0

Table C.2.1.4 Decimal Equivalents for Seconds

Time (seconds)	Decimal Equivalent	Time (seconds)	Decimal Equivalent	Time (seconds)	Decimal Equivalent
1	0.02	21	0.35	41	0.68
2	0.03	22	0.37	42	0.7
3	0.05	23	0.38	43	0.72
4	0.07	24	0.4	44	0.73
5	0.08	25	0.42	45	0.75
6	0.1	26	0.43	46	0.77
7	0.12	27	0.45	47	0.78
8	0.13	28	0.47	48	0.8
9	0.15	29	0.48	49	0.82
10	0.17	30	0.5	50	0.83
11	0.18	31	0.52	51	0.85
12	0.2	32	0.53	52	0.87
13	0.22	33	0.55	53	0.88
14	0.23	34	0.57	54	0.9
15	0.25	35	0.58	55	0.92
16	0.27	36	0.6	56	0.93
17	0.28	37	0.62	57	0.95
18	0.3	38	0.63	58	0.97
19	0.32	39	0.65	59	0.98
20	0.33	40	0.67	60	1

peak-hold needle is rotated counterclockwise to the zero position. The individual is advised that the evaluation is a series of six measurements — three for each hand. The individual is informed that the isometric contraction (squeezing) required during this evaluation must be eased into and then released slowly, without swinging arm, pumping arm, or jerking hand. Inform the individual that if at any time during the evaluation they experience chest pain, light-headedness, ataxia, confusion, nausea, or clamminess, they should terminate the evaluation.

(3) The individual is instructed to assume a slightly bent forward position, with elbow bent at a 90-degree angle, shoulder adducted and neutrally rotated, forearm and wrist in neutral position.

(4) The individual is instructed to squeeze with maximum strength 2 to 3 seconds while exhaling and then slowly release grip. The peak-hold needle will automatically record the highest force exerted.

(5) Measure both hands alternatively allowing three evaluations per hand. Reset the peak-hold needle to zero before obtaining new readings. List the scores for each hand to the nearest kilogram.

(6) Record the highest score.

C.2.1.6 Leg strength evaluations shall use the Wellness-Fitness Initiative Protocol for Leg Strength. The leg dynamometer shall be the Jackson Strength Evaluation System or a commercial dynamometer system that is digital, incorporates dead load cells, and includes an adjustable chain, handlebar, and test platform. The fire department must verify that the dynamometer is equivalent to the Jackson Strength Evaluation System. A V-grip handlebar (chinning triangle) is required. [See Figure C.2.1.6.]

(1) Conduct pre-evaluation procedures.

(2) The individual being evaluated is instructed to towel hands to ensure they are dry. The individual is advised that the evaluation is a series of three measurements. The individual is informed that the isometric arm contraction required during this evaluation must be eased into and then released slowly, without swinging arm, pumping arm, or jerking hands. Inform the individual that if at any time during the evaluation they experience back pain, chest pain, light-headedness, ataxia, confusion, nausea, or clamminess, they should terminate the evaluation.

(3) The individual is instructed to stand upon the dynamometer base plate, which has been placed on a level and secure surface, with feet spread shoulder width apart. The individual is instructed to hold the bar with a wide grip and bend their

elbows (keeping their elbows to their sides) 90 degrees. Individual must stand erect without arching back.

(4) The instructor verifies that the arm/elbow joint angle is 90 degrees and adjusts the chain so that it is taut in this position.

(5) The individual shall be instructed not to shrug shoulders, bend back, or perform any other motion other than to contract arms and attempt to move the handlebar in a vertical direction.

(6) Instruct the individual to flex arms for a total of 3 seconds.

(7) After 3 seconds, instruct the individual to slowly relax arms and to remain at standing rest for 30 seconds.

(8) Once the individual has completed the 30-second recovery period begin the second evaluation. Repeat evaluation for the third time using the same procedure.

(9) List all scores. Note: Digital readout will display the actual force, the highest peak force, and the average force achieved during the three evaluations.

(10) Record the highest of the three trials to the nearest kilogram.

C.2.1.7 Arm strength evaluations shall use the following protocol. The arm dynamometer shall be the Jackson Strength Evaluation System or a commercial dynamometer system that is digital, incorporates dead load cells, and includes an adjustable chain, handlebar, and test platform. The fire department must verify that the dynamometer is equivalent to the Jackson Strength Evaluation System. A straight-grip handlebar is required. (See Figure C.2.1.7.)

(1) Conduct pre-evaluation procedures.

(2) The individual being evaluated is instructed to towel hands to ensure they are dry. The individual is advised that the evaluation is a series of three measurements. The individual is informed that the isometric leg extension required during this evaluation must be eased into and then released slowly, without bending back, swinging arm, pumping or bending arm, or jerking hand. Inform the individual that if at anytime during the evaluation they experience back pain, chest pain, light-headedness, ataxia, confusion, nausea, or clamminess, they should terminate the evaluation.

(3) The individual is instructed to stand upon the dynamometer base plate, which has been placed on a level and secure surface, with feet spread shoulder width apart. The individual is instructed to stand erect. The chain is then adjusted so the upper (inside) edge of the bottom cross member of the V-grip handlebar is at the top of the individual's kneecap. The evaluator verifies this position, ensuring the chain is taut.

(4) The individual is then instructed to hold the bar, look straight with head in the neutral position, fully extend arms, and maintain a straight back. The evaluator shall verify this position and ensure that the individual's hips are directly over their feet, with trunk and knees slightly bent.

(5) Instruct the individual to lift using their legs for a total of 3 seconds.

(6) After 3 seconds, instruct the individual to slowly relax arms and legs and to remain at standing rest for 30 seconds.



FIGURE C.2.1.5 [Hand Grip Dynamometer.]

(7) Once the individual has completed the 30-second recovery period begin the second evaluation. Repeat the evaluation for the third time using the same procedure.

(8) List all scores. Note: Digital readout will display the actual force, the highest peak force, and the average force achieved during the three evaluations.

(9) Record the highest of the three trials to the nearest kilogram.

C.2.1.8 WFI Vertical Jump — Optional Assessment. LEG POWER ASSESSMENT

Equipment:

- (1) Pressure Mat — “Just Jump” Probotics
- (2) Safety Tape — or any object that can be suspended above the mat to act as a target
- (3) Calculator

Assessment:

The purpose of this assessment is to estimate peak power produced in the lower body. Collect the participant's body

weight and record in kilograms ($\# \text{ lbs} \div 2.2 = \text{kg}$). Conduct pre-evaluation procedures. Place the jumping mat on a level surface. Connect the cord attached to the jumping mat to the handheld computer port. With the participant off the mat, turn the computer on. Choose “One Jump” on the computer menu. The display should read “Step on Mat.” Have the participant squat to a position where the knees are at a 90° angle and the hands by the sides (momentary pause at 90°) [see Figure C.2.1.8(a)]. Instruct the participant to jump straight up as high as he/she can, reaching toward the ceiling or a target object, without tucking the legs, and land with both feet on the mat [see Figure C.2.1.8(b)]. When the participant has completed the jump, the display will read the hang time and vertical jump in inches. The vertical jump mode resets automatically. Have the participant perform a series of 3 jumps and record the highest distance in inches.



FIGURE C.2.1.6 [Leg Dynamometer.]



FIGURE C.2.1.7 [Arm Dynamometer.]