

Operating Guidelines

Section: Human Resources

Subject: Alcohol Consumption

Policy #: 327

Date Issued: April 6, 2016

Date Revised: October 3, 2017

Purpose

Because of the inherent risks and dangers associated with the duties of a firefighter, it is imperative that the firefighter performs with good judgment and a clear head. Consumption of alcoholic beverages may significantly reduce your judgment capabilities.

The Service recognizes that the social consumption of alcoholic beverages is an acceptable practice in today's society. The Service also recognizes that while it is most desirable that the firefighters do not consume alcohol prior to responding to alarms, it is not feasible to strictly prohibit alcohol consumption during the periods when Part time staff is off duty prior to an alarm.

The purpose of this policy is therefore to:

- Clearly establish the position taken by the Fire Department in respect to alcohol consumption.
- Provide guidelines for those firefighters who may consider responding to an alarm after having consumed alcoholic beverages.

Procedure

327.1

Firefighters **are not to respond to alarms** when it is likely they have consumed enough alcohol that their license could be suspended for 12 hours, i.e. 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood.

327.2

Firefighters who have consumed alcoholic beverages but do not believe themselves to be impaired are required to exercise prudent judgment in choosing to respond to the station and potentially to the incident scene following an alarm.

327.3

As much as reasonably possible, with consideration of the manpower needs at the scene, those who have consumed alcohol should remain at the station and/or only participate in duties that would not threaten their safety or public safety.