

Operating Guidelines

Section: Human Resources

Subject: Drug Use

Policy #: 328

Date Issued: April 12, 2016

Date Revised: October 3, 2017

Purpose

Because of the inherent risk and dangers associated with the duties of a fire fighter, it is imperative that the fire fighter be performing with good judgement and a clear head. Many prescription and non-prescription drugs/medications may very significantly reduce your judgement capabilities or your co-ordination/motor function. The purpose of this policy is therefore to provide guidelines for staff members who consider driving Fire Service vehicles or responding to emergency incidents after taking such drugs/medication.

Procedure

328.1

Firefighters are not to drive Fire Department Vehicles or respond to emergency incidents after taking drugs/medications that are known or suspected to cause significant drowsiness, judgement impairment or impairment of muscle function and co-ordination.

328.2

Firefighters who have taken drugs/medications that bear warnings indicating the drug/medication "may cause drowsiness" are required to exercise prudent judgement in choosing to operate Fire Department Vehicles or respond to emergency incidents. Such prudent judgement may only be made after you have used the medication/drug for a period of time and are fully aware of how your body handles the medication/drug.

Responsibility

1. It is the responsibility of each fire fighter to assess the effect any medication/drug has on them and to comply with this policy.
2. Further, it is the responsibility of each fire fighter to inform the officer in charge of an incident when there is a potential that consumption of any drug or medication may

compromise their ability to perform assigned tasks or the safety of those on the incident scene.

3. It is the responsibility of each officer/acting officer to remove any staff member who is exhibiting signs of impaired judgement or impaired muscle function/co-ordination from any incident scene or location where they may be a threat to their own safety or the safety of others.
4. It is the responsibility of each officer/acting officer to notify the Duty Officer as soon as possible following any incident where a staff member has exhibited signs of impaired judgment or impaired muscle function/co-ordination.