

Department of Community Affairs



Office of the Director

TO: Fire Chiefs
FROM: William Kramer, Jr. Acting Director/State Fire Marshal *W/K Jr.*
DATE: March 24, 2015
SUBJECT: Fire Officer Requirements

In November of each year the Division of Fire Safety distributes a document that reminds all fire departments of the requirements to hold any fire officer position. This notification has been limited to what is required by the Division of Fire Safety, and does not include items required by other agencies such as the New Jersey PEOSH program. As a result, this has caused some to believe that the only requirements to be a fire officer are those in the notice distributed by the division.

The New Jersey Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) program has a number of safety and health standards that employers, (municipalities and fire districts) must comply with regardless of whether they are volunteers or career. These are contained in the Safety and Health Standards for Public Employers in N.J.A.C 12:100 and include the Standards for Firefighters at N.J.A.C 12:100 Subchapter 10. All PEOSH Standards including the PEOSH Act can be found at: http://wd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lss/laws/peosha_law.html

Examples include the adoption of a respiratory protection program that stipulates how the employer will ensure compliance with an individual's ability to be medically cleared to wear a respirator; an annual respirator face piece fit test and a policy regarding facial hair when wearing a respirator. Another example includes the requirement that anyone who will be supervising an incident involving a hazardous substance above the awareness level needs to meet the requirements of On-Scene Incident Commander; and annual refresher training for blood borne pathogens, confined space and hazardous materials; as well as bi-annual Right-to-Know (RTK) training.

It is imperative that fire chiefs and municipal officials realize the responsibility they have to ensure compliance. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your regional fire coordinator directly or through the office at 609-292-4109. He will be happy to assist you in understanding how to ensure compliance. You may also contact Justin Baker, Assistant Chief of the PEOSH On-Site Consultation Unit at 609-292-2832 or at Justin.baker@dol.state.nj.us.