
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1517

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2004 Regular Session

By House Committee on Commerce & Labor (originally sponsored by Representatives Cooper, G. Simpson, Conway, Sullivan and Wallace)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/04.

1 AN ACT Relating to the occupational safety and health of fire
2 department employees; and adding a new chapter to Title 49 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to set standards for
5 addressing the occupational safety and health of substantially career
6 fire department employees, and to specify performance measures
7 applicable to response time objectives for certain major services. The
8 legislature acknowledges the efforts of the international city/county
9 management association, the international association of fire chiefs,
10 and the national fire protection association for the organization and
11 deployment of resources for fire departments. The arrival of first
12 responders with automatic external defibrillator capability before the
13 onset of brain death, and the arrival of adequate fire suppression
14 resources before flash-over is a critical event during the mitigation
15 of an emergency, and is in the public's best interest. For these
16 reasons, this chapter contains performance measures, comparable to that
17 research, relating to the organization and deployment of fire
18 suppression operations, emergency medical operations, and special
19 operations by substantially career fire departments. This chapter does

1 not, and is not intended to, in any way modify or limit the authority
2 of the department of labor and industries to adopt rules under chapter
3 49.17 RCW applying to fire departments or otherwise addressing the
4 occupational safety and health of fire fighters.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
6 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "Advanced life support" means functional provision of advanced
8 airway management, including intubation, advanced cardiac monitoring,
9 manual defibrillation, establishment and maintenance of intravenous
10 access, and drug therapy.

11 (2) "Aircraft rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting
12 actions taken to rescue persons and to control or extinguish fire
13 involving or adjacent to aircraft on the ground.

14 (3) "Brain death" as defined by the American heart association
15 means the irreversible death of brain cells that begins four to six
16 minutes after cardiac arrest.

17 (4) "Fire department" means a fire protection district, or a
18 county, city, or other municipal fire department responsible for fire
19 fighting actions, emergency medical services, and other special
20 operations in a specified geographic area. The district or the
21 department must be a substantially career fire department, and not a
22 substantially volunteer fire department.

23 (5) "Fire suppression" means the activities involved in controlling
24 and extinguishing fires.

25 (6) "First responder" means provision of initial assessment and
26 basic first-aid intervention, including cardiac pulmonary resuscitation
27 and automatic external defibrillator capability.

28 (7) "Flash-over" as defined by national institute of standards and
29 technology means when all combustibles in a room burst into flame and
30 the fire spreads rapidly.

31 (8) "Marine rescue and fire fighting" means the fire fighting
32 actions taken to prevent, control, or extinguish fire involved in or
33 adjacent to a marine vessel and the rescue actions for occupants using
34 normal and emergency routes for egress.

35 (9) "Response time" means the time immediately following the
36 turnout time that begins when units are en route to the emergency
37 incident and ends when units arrive at the scene.

1 (10) "Special operations" means those emergency incidents to which
2 the fire department responds that require specific and advanced
3 training and specialized tools and equipment.

4 (11) "Turnout time" means the time beginning when units acknowledge
5 notification of the emergency to the beginning point of response time.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) Every fire department shall maintain a
7 written statement or policy that establishes the following:

- 8 (a) The existence of a fire department;
9 (b) Services that the fire department is required to provide;
10 (c) The basic organizational structure of the fire department;
11 (d) The expected number of fire department employees; and
12 (e) Functions that fire department employees are expected to
13 perform.

14 (2) Every fire department shall include service delivery objectives
15 in the written statement or policy required under subsection (1) of
16 this section. These objectives shall include specific response time
17 objectives for the following major service components, if appropriate:

- 18 (a) Fire suppression;
19 (b) Emergency management services;
20 (c) Special operations;
21 (d) Aircraft rescue and fire fighting;
22 (e) Marine rescue and fire fighting; and
23 (f) Wild land fire fighting.

24 (3) Every fire department, in order to measure the ability to
25 arrive and begin mitigation operations before the critical events of
26 brain death or flash-over, shall establish the following time
27 objectives:

- 28 (a) One minute for turnout time;
29 (b) Four minutes or less response time for the arrival of the first
30 arriving engine company at a fire suppression incident, or eight
31 minutes or less response time for the deployment of a full first alarm
32 assignment at a fire suppression incident;
33 (c) Four minutes or less response time for the arrival of a unit
34 with first responder or higher level capability at an emergency medical
35 incident; and
36 (d) Eight minutes or less response time for the arrival of an

1 advanced life support unit at an emergency medical incident, where this
2 service is provided by the fire department.

3 (4) Every fire department shall also establish a performance
4 objective of not less than ninety percent for the achievement of each
5 response time objective specified in subsection (3) of this section.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Every fire department shall evaluate its
7 level of service and deployment delivery and response time objectives
8 on an annual basis. The evaluations shall be based on data relating to
9 level of service, deployment, and the achievement of each response time
10 objective in each geographic area within the jurisdiction of the fire
11 department.

12 (2) Beginning in 2006, every fire department shall issue an annual
13 written report which shall be based on the annual evaluations required
14 by subsection (1) of this section.

15 (a) The annual report shall define the geographic areas and
16 circumstances in which the requirements of this standard are not being
17 met.

18 (b) The annual report shall explain the predictable consequences of
19 any deficiencies and address the steps that are necessary to achieve
20 compliance.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
22 a new chapter in Title 49 RCW.

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