

## **Barkhamsted Fire District Medical Policy** **of 12-28-06**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all the fire departments within the Barkhamsted Fire District (herein referred to as the District), and all their respective active members, comply with NFPA 1582 Standard Medical Requirements for Firefighters and OSHA 29CFR1910.134 Respirator Protection regulations. Active members are defined as any person who has been accepted for membership in and has met the requirements for firefighter on one of the District's three fire departments: Barkhamsted East, Pleasant Valley & Riverton.

All active members, including fire police and juniors, and Fire Marshal staff shall obtain annual medical clearances as required by OSHA 29CFR1910.134. All interior firefighters shall obtain annual respiratory clearance as required by OSHA 29CFR1910.134. All firefighters over the age of forty shall obtain annual EKG testing and medical clearance to participate in firefighting activities.

All required medical, respiratory and where needed, EKG clearance forms shall be submitted to Barkhamsted Fire District Medical Officer (who is the chairperson of the Health and Safety Committee) by December 31 of each calendar year for the upcoming year. The District Medical Officer shall provide each Fire Department by January 15 of each calendar year with a list of those members cleared for duty and which members are cleared for interior firefighting. Members without the required clearance forms on file will not be allowed to respond to any incidents, practices, or participate in other activities which require physical exertion.

The Barkhamsted Fire District, through a contracted medical provider, will at no cost to the fire department members, provide the physical examinations, and where appropriate, respirator and/or EKG clearances on an annual basis. Members may also have the respirator clearance and physical examination performed by their own physician, but the physician must complete medical and respiratory clearance forms provided by the Barkhamsted Fire District. The Barkhamsted Fire District shall reimburse members for the cost, but reimbursement will not be greater than the cost the Barkhamsted Fire District would have paid to the contracted medical provider.

Members that discover during the year that they have a medical condition that either may prevent or will prevent them from their firefighting duties will immediately advise their chief of their change in medical status. Until the member's medical condition is clarified & a clearance is received from either the member's personal physician or the Barkhamsted Fire District's contracted medical provider, that member will be placed on a medical hold. A medical hold is defined as a medical condition that requires that the member not respond to any incidents, practices, or participates in other activities which may require physical exertion. The Chief shall immediately advise the Barkhamsted Fire District Medical Officer that the member is on a medical hold. The member may resume full or if appropriate, partial response once the member produces to their chief a medical clearance form from either the member's personal physician or the

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Barkhamsted Fire District's contracted medical provider. The Chief will give the clearance form to the Barkhamsted Fire District Medical Officer who will place the form into the member's medical file.

The Barkhamsted Fire District Medical Officer shall maintain a copy the medical clearance forms for all members in a locked file cabinet. Originals of the clearance forms shall be maintain by the Barkhamsted Fire District's contracted medical provider and/or the member's own physician.