



South Carolina State Firefighters' Association

Position Statement on the Issue of Minimum Physicals for South Carolina Firefighters

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Joint Council of Fire Service Associations Resolution Number 5, dated October 12, 2011, addresses Minimum Physicals for South Carolina Firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina State Firefighters' Association is committed to ensuring all firefighters operating in the State of South Carolina are "physically capable" of performing the essential duties to which they are expected to perform; and

WHEREAS, each fire department is encouraged to maintain written documentation of their basic organization structure, job descriptions for each level of position within the department, and provide its members with a physical examination commensurate with the essential job tasks the member is expected to perform; and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Firefighters' Association will provide its member firefighters access to an annual Standard Firefighter Physical Examination Template, as required; access to an employee counseling model, psychological support, and assist member departments in establishing wellness and nutritional programs.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

A Medical History Questionnaire should be completed by each firefighter prior to employment and at least annually thereafter. A Medical History Questionnaire is recommended also for members performing only administrative tasks.

In addition to completing a Medical History Questionnaire, structural firefighter candidates should complete a NFPA 1582 (2007) Standard Firefighter Medical Examination prior to hire and/or being assigned firefighter training and emergency duties.

The South Carolina State Firefighters' Association will provide its member firefighters access to an annual Standard Firefighter Medical Examination Template. Firefighters are defined as members expected to perform the essential job tasks and descriptions identified in NFPA 1582 (2007), Chapter 5, Section 5.1. Follow-up medical exams and/or other occupationally related medical examinations to include specialized teams medical testing/examinations are the responsibility of the individual fire department.

Candidates should only be hired pending the outcome of the Medical History Questionnaire and/or Physical Examination, as applicable. Physical Examinations may include agility tests, physical exams/medical evaluations, behavioral health screening, etc.

Specialized firefighters (i.e. firefighter's assigned duties other than those mentioned in NFPA 1582, Section 5.1) may require addition testing and/or medical examinations commensurate with the duties/tasks the specialized firefighter is expected to perform. These additional duties shall also be established in writing and a copy provided to the fire department physician.

Adopted by action of the Executive Committee on:
December 20, 2011