

## ON SITE RESPIRATORY CLEARANCE EXAMINATIONS

The Borough of Naugatuck is requesting proposals from qualified medical providers to perform annual medical evaluation and necessary exams and testing for use of a self-contained breathing apparatus by members of the fire department. In addition to fires, the Naugatuck Fire Department responds to hazardous materials incidents at the first responder operational level and is not part of a hazardous materials response team.

The screening and exams shall follow the standards, guidelines and regulations of both 29 CFR 1910.134 and 29 CFR 1910.120 and include:

- a) A completed OSHA respiratory questionnaire (29CFR1910.134 Appendix C);
- b) A physical examination with content to be determined by the examining physician or other licensed health care professional (PLHCP), but including, at a minimum, a medical and occupational history with special emphasis on pulmonary and cardiovascular systems and respiratory disease related to the breathing of hazardous substances, job related physical stress and fitness for duty;

The provider shall provide a respiratory clearance examination upon request by the Naugatuck Fire Chief or designee. The annual evaluations are to occur on mutually agreeable dates between February 1 and April 30 of each year at Naugatuck Fire Headquarters, 41 Maple Street, Naugatuck, CT.

The NFD uses a four shift rotation with each shift working 24 hours followed by 72 hours off. Four site visits are required any time between the hours of 9:00AM and 8:00PM with 8 to 10 employees available for exams each visit.

Any initial exams or testing for a newly hired firefighter, or additional exams or tests for existing employees, are to take place at the medical provider's office.

A total of 35 employees wear self-contained breathing apparatus and 2 wear air purifying respirators.

The PLHCP shall provide the Fire Chief or designee with a copy of the written recommendation within 24 hours of exam if the exam outcome is a respirator use limitation/restriction.

The written recommendation shall comply with the guidance provided in 29 CFR 1910.134 (e)(6)(i):

- a) any limitations on respirator use related to the medical condition of the employee, or relating to the workplace conditions in which the respirator will be used, including whether or not the employee is medically able to use the respirator;
- b) The Fire Chief must be notified prior to scheduling any additional or follow up evaluations. The Borough of Naugatuck will be responsible for all costs associated with an exam or test to medically clear an employee for respirator use. Medical conditions found that require additional tests not related to respiratory clearance or medical treatments that are not the result of a job related injury are the sole responsibility of the employee.
- c) A statement that the provider has given the employee a copy of the physician's written recommendation.

The proposal must include an itemized list of exams and tests required to meet compliance with the medical clearances in 29 CFR 1910.134 29 CFR 1910.120 as well as any additional costs associated with the on-site exams.

Questions regarding the request can be directed to:

Fire Chief Ken Hanks, 203-720-7081 or khanks@naugatuck-ct.gov.