



Roosevelt Fire District

Section:	Policy:
Administration	Medical Concerns for Pregnant FF

The Fire District Affairs article of June 1991 was submitted to the Board for reference. The title of the article is "Medical concerns for Pregnant Fire Fighters". The article was read and discussed. Commissioner Cruger made a motion to adopt the text as Roosevelt Fire District policy regarding pregnant fire fighters. Motion seconded by Mr. Ollivett and was carried. The text of the motion is as follows;

"Substantial and credible evidence exists that certain toxic substances or conditions exist in the firefighting environment that are dangerous to the safety and well-being of the unborn fetus. Therefore, it is important to educate all fire fighters about these risks and the reasons for recommending that pregnant firefighters restrict their fire suppression activities. For example, there is good evidence that the fetus is especially sensitive to carbon monoxide, a known significant component of fire smoke. Although the use of SCBA is assumed to be protective, sometimes such equipment is not used throughout a fire suppression or hazardous materials incident. The use of such equipment also increases other fetal stressors, such as exertion and heat, other concerns are those involving physical work. Prolonged standing, heavy lifting and exposures to temperature extremes and humidity have been related to an increased risk of pre-term and low birth weight infants. Because the fetus should be protected from these exposures at the earliest possible time, the fire fighter who may be pregnant should obtain early pregnancy testing and should defer all fire suppression activities upon confirmation of pregnancy and be placed on alternative duty. Recognizing potential risks to the unborn fetus from the firefighting environment is a relatively recent event, and many fire fighters may not be aware of these risks".

"Any firefighter who is or becomes pregnant should be offered the opportunity to be temporarily removed from firefighting duties or otherwise temporarily relieved of duties involving exposure to hazards or physical stress that might endanger the firefighter or the unborn fetus. If practical, the firefighter should be reassigned to an administrative position within the department during the pendency of the pregnancy, At such time as the firefighter is no longer pregnant, the firefighter should be reinstated to the position held prior to becoming pregnant".

Board approved: 11/12/92	Last Revision 10/92
--------------------------	---------------------