

Safety Bulletin

Ear Protection

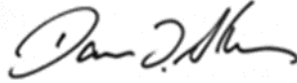
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Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief



The Health and Safety Committee has initiated a program to issue safety bulletins containing safety reminders on a more frequent basis.

Safety Topic: **Ear Protection**

Fauquier County DFREM has selected 2 types of ear plugs from which each department member may choose. The ear plugs are in a bag or pouch and may be reused but are also considered disposable when unable to clean, considered contaminated or damaged.



The supplied ear plugs may also be worn in conjunction with ear muffs supplied on some apparatus to increase level of hearing protection. It should also be noted that there are further precautions which should be taken such as:

- Removing yourself from uncomfortably loud noise
- Limiting exposure duration
- Rolling windows up when inside apparatus with operating sirens
- Wearing ear muffs in apparatus or at pump panel with radio communication functionality

Hearing protection (ear plugs, muffs or both) shall be used when deemed necessary by supervisor/company officer. The following is a list of exposures when hearing protection shall be worn although this list is not considered all inclusive:

- Checking air packs or standing near compressor
- Operating chainsaws or other portable internal combustion engines
- Extended operation time at pump panel
- Striking metal objects such as door props with tools
- When encountering painful or uncomfortable noise

Ear plug insertion video: <https://youtu.be/bc4bOZDrrUc>

Questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Battalion Chief Lorenzen.