

PART 42

FIREFIGHTERS

Application

42.1 This Part applies to firefighters and their employers, but does not apply to a person employed to suppress an underground fire at a mine or the employer of such persons.

Safe work procedures

42.2(1) An employer of a firefighter must

- (a) develop and implement safe work procedures to be followed by firefighters responding to an emergency;
- (b) train firefighters in the safe work procedures; and
- (c) ensure that firefighters comply with the safe work procedures.

42.2(2) The safe work procedures must include

- (a) firefighting procedures;
- (b) procedures to be followed in responding to other types of emergencies, including water rescue, confined space entry, high-angle rescue and emergencies involving hazardous materials, if the employer provides emergency response services for other types of emergencies;
- (c) for each type of emergency to which firefighters will or are likely to respond, the number and type or types of firefighting vehicles and firefighters required
 - (i) for initial response,
 - (ii) to be subsequently dispatched, and
 - (iii) to safely perform an identified emergency response procedure;
- (d) a system for initiating, if required, procedures necessary to protect the safety and health of firefighters at the site of an emergency; and
- (e) a personnel accountability system that provides a mechanism of accounting for the number and location of all personnel involved at the site

of an emergency.

42.2(3) An employer must provide a firefighter with ready access to the safe work procedures at the fire station or other base of operations for firefighters.

Training

42.3 An employer must ensure that a written record is kept of all training provided to firefighters.

Firefighting vehicle and equipment requirements

42.4(1) An employer must ensure that

- (a) a firefighting vehicle is operated by a competent person;
- (b) the firefighting vehicles and equipment used to respond to an emergency are designed and operated to ensure the safety and health of a firefighter;
- (c) equipment provided, including any personal protective equipment, safety ropes, harnesses and hardware, is appropriate to the risks to the firefighter's safety and health;
- (d) the equipment provided under clause (c) is used by firefighter when responding to an emergency; and
- (e) equipment carried within a seating area of a firefighting vehicle, if any, is secured
 - (i) by a positive mechanical means of holding it in a stowed position, or
 - (ii) in a compartment that is equipped with a positive latching door and that has been designed, in the event of an accident, to minimize injury to a firefighter in the seating area of the vehicle.

42.4(2) An employer must ensure that

- (a) firefighting vehicles and equipment are inspected by a competent person according to the manufacturer's specifications;
- (b) a written record of the inspection that is signed by the person who performed the inspection is readily available to firefighters at the workplace; and

(c) where a defect or unsafe condition is identified,

(i) the defect or unsafe condition is repaired or corrected in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications by a competent person, as soon as is reasonably practicable,

(ii) a written record of the repair or correction is readily available at the workplace, and

(iii) steps are taken in the interim to protect the safety and health of a firefighter.

Transportation of firefighters

42.5(1) An employer must ensure that

(a) a firefighting vehicle has safe crew accommodations within the body of the vehicle and is equipped with properly secured seats and seat belts; and

(b) when the vehicle is in motion,

(i) every firefighter is seated and uses a seat-belt, and

(ii) no person rides on the tailstep, side steps, running boards or in any other exposed position on the vehicle.

42.5(2) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply

(a) if there is an insufficient number of seats and seat belts available, but only if the employer ensures that there is a safe alternate means of transporting any firefighter who is not able to use a seat and seat belt; or

(b) to a firefighter fighting a prairie, grassland, forest or crop fire from a moving firefighting vehicle, but only if the employer ensures that

(i) the firefighting vehicle is provided with, and the firefighter uses, a restraining device that prevents the firefighter from falling from the vehicle,

(ii) an effective means of communication between the firefighter and the operator of the vehicle is provided, and

(iii) the vehicle is not operated at a speed that exceeds 20 km/h.

Specific firefighting requirements

42.6(1) An employer must ensure that firefighters work in a team, and a suitably equipped rescue team is readily available, when firefighters are required or permitted to engage in

(a) fire suppression and rescue, where a firefighter must enter a building, enclosed structure, vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other large object; or

(b) emergency responses that require specific and advanced training and specialized equipment, such as water rescue, confined space entry, high-angle rescue and incidents involving hazardous materials.

42.6(2) An employer must ensure that every firefighter who enters a structure to fight a fire is provided with and uses a personal alert safety system that meets the requirements of NFPA 1982, *Standard on Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS)*, 1998 Edition for Fire Fighters.

42.6(3) An employer must ensure that the personal alert safety system required under subsection (2) is

(a) tested at least weekly and before each use; and

(b) maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Definitions: "emergency"

42.7 In this Part, "**emergency**" has the same meaning as in *The Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act*.