Draft

Notice of Change/Withdrawal/Correction

NAME OF AGENCY
Division or Board
RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:
69A-62.0001 Definitions
69A-62.002 Uniform Minimum Firefighter Employment Standards; Adoption of National Fire Protection Association Standards
69A-62.021 Minimum Requirements for a Firefighter Employer Comprehensive Safety and Health Program
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69A-62.025 Employer Cancer Prevention Best Practices
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69A-62.042 Firefighter Employer Requirements

NOTICE OF CHANGE

Notice is hereby given that the following changes have been made to the proposed rule in accordance with Section 120.54(3)(d)1., F.S., published in Vol. 52 No. 131, July 8, 2026 issue of the Florida Administrative Register.

69A-62.0001 Definitions.

Unless the text or context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in Sections 633.504 and 440.02, F.S., are applicable to this rule chapter.

(1) through (12) No change.

(13) "Firefighter Employee Safety and Health Remediation Plan ~~Program~~" means a written training plan ~~program~~ developed by a carrier, individual self-insurer, self-insurance fund, firefighter employer, or a combination thereof for a firefighter employer's implementation when the firefighter employer has been identified as having a high frequency or severity of injuries or workers' compensation insurance claims that is higher than the average for firefighter employers. It also includes any safety and health program that has been adopted by a firefighter employer and approved by the Division. It shall serve as a guide to safe work practices for firefighter employees.

(14) through (18) No change.

(19) A firefighter employer "identified" means a firefighter employer identified by the Division as meeting the criteria described in Rule 69A-62.023, F.A.C. ~~having three or more compensable injuries in the most recent period of three calendar years. For purposes of this subsection, "compensable" has the same meaning as in Section 440.13, F.S.~~

(20) through (43) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 633.104, 633.128, 633.508, 633.518, 633.520, 633.522 FS. Law Implemented 633.128, 633.504, 633.508, 633.518, 633.520, 633.522 FS. History–New 9-6-04, Amended 12-12-17, ____.

69A-62.002 Uniform Minimum Firefighter Employment Standards; Adoption of National Fire Protection Association Standards.

(1) The Department of Financial Services, Division of State Fire Marshal, adopts and incorporates as rules of the Division of State Fire Marshal the following standards as they pertain solely to firefighters and firefighter employers: The National Fire Protection Association, Inc., Standard 1500, Paragraph 7.18 ~~7.15~~ (Personal Alert Safety System [PASS]), 2021 edition. A PASS device shall be worn each time a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus is required.

(2) through (3) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 633.104, 633.128, 633.508 F.S. Law Implemented 633.128, 633.508 FS. History–New 11-21-01, Formerly 4A-62.002, Amended 1-1-09, 5-22-11,_____.

69A-62.021 Minimum Requirements for a Firefighter Employer Comprehensive Safety and Health Program.

(1) through (2) No change.

(3) Safety and Health Training Program. Each firefighter employer shall implement a written safety and health training program, which shall address or include:

(a) through (k) No change.

(l) Training and education, which shall be provided by each firefighter employer, for all firefighters and supervisory personnel on the use, maintenance, storage, cleaning procedures, lifespan, limitations, protective features, and considerations that surround issued protective firefighting gear as described in Rule 69A-62.042, F.A.C.

(4) through (6) No change.

(7) Policy for enforcement of safety rules and regulations.

(a) No change.

(b) Each firefighter employer must document and report to the Division occupational injuries; ~~,~~ disease diagnoses, including cancer, illnesses, mental health injuries, and post-traumatic stress disorder; ~~,~~ suicides; and fatalities using the "Fire Service Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries, Disease Diagnoses, Illnesses, Suicides, and Fatalities,"

DFS-K4-1568, effective (12/2026 ~~MM/YY~~), http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19734, which is hereby incorporated by reference (sometimes referred to as the "log and summary"). The form must be submitted to the Division within 15 calendar days after the ending of each quarter of the calendar year ~~outlined below~~. The form does not need to be submitted if there is nothing to report. A copy of the DFS-K4-1568 may be obtained by writing the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training, 11655 Northwest Gainesville Road, Ocala, Florida 34482-1486 or by downloading the document from the Bureau's website at https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/bfstforms.htm. The firefighter employer or the person who supervises the preparation of the log and summary shall sign the log and summary. Instructions for completing the log and summary are available on the "Directions for Completing Fire Service Casualty Report," DFS-K4-1569, effective (12/2026 ~~MM/YY~~), http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19735, which is incorporated by reference. A copy of the DFS-K4-1569 may be obtained by writing to the Division of State Fire Marshal, Department of Financials Services, 200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0340, or by downloading the document from the Bureau's website: https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfst/bfstforms.htm.

(c) through (d) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 633.508, 633.518 FS. Law Implemented 633.508, 633.518, 633.520, 633.522 FS. History–New 9-6-04, Amended 6-6-07, 1-1-09, 5-22-11, 12-12-17, 2-20-23,_____.

69A-62.023 Criteria for Identifying Firefighter Employers with a High Frequency or Severity of Injuries.

(1) No change.

(2) The Division will determine firefighter employers with a high frequency of injuries, occupational diseases, or fatalities or high severity of injuries using the following criteria:

(a) through (b) No change.

(c) A 0.5% or higher frequency of suicides within the workforce within a two-year period. ~~A cluster of three or more suicides within a two-year period at a firefighter employer.~~

(3) No change.

(4) A firefighter employer identified as having a high frequency or severity of injuries must submit a Firefighter Employee Safety and Health Remediation Plan that includes the criteria identified in ~~firefighter employee safety and health program in accordance with~~ Rule 69A-62.021, F.A.C., for approval by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with Section 633.522, F.S. The Firefighter Employee Safety and Health Remediation Plan must address the identified

deficiencies. The Department will use the safety and health program to inspect the identified firefighter employer. If the identified firefighter employer has not developed its own approved safety and health program, the safety and health program components set forth in Rule 69A-62.021, F.A.C., will be used to conduct the inspection.

Rulemaking Authority 633.522 FS. Law Implemented 633.506, 633.522 FS. History–New 9-6-04, Amended 8-31-10,_____.

69A-62.025 Employer Cancer Prevention Best Practices

(1) No change.

(2) The best practices outlined in Form DFS-K4-2203 are based on the following standards:

(a) National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety, Health, and Wellness Program (2021 ~~2018~~ Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference;

(b) NFPA 1582, Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Program for Fire Departments (2022 ~~2018~~ Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference;

(c) No change.

~~(d) NFPA 1901, Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus (2016 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference;~~

~~(e) NFPA 1912, Standard for Fire Apparatus Refurbishing (2016 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference; and~~

(d) NFPA 1900, Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles, Automotive Fire Apparatus, Wildland Fire Apparatus, and Automotive Ambulances (2024 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference;

(e)~~(f)~~ NFPA 1970, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural and Proximity Firefighting, Work Apparel, Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for Emergency Services, and Personal Alert Safety Systems (PASS) (2025 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference; and

(f)~~(g)~~ Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Safety and Health Considerations for the Design of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Stations (May 2018), DFS-K4-0348, which is hereby incorporated by reference and available on the following link: http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19999 ~~http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19733~~; or on the following FEMA website: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/design_of_fire_ems_stations.pdf.

(3) The NFPA standards referenced in paragraphs (2)(a) through (e)~~(f)~~ are copyrighted materials that cannot be copied but may be purchased by contacting the NFPA at 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471; Phone 1(800)344-3555; Website www.nfpa.org.

(4) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 112.1816, 633.520 FS. Law Implemented 112.1816, 633.520, 633.522 FS. History–New 11-26-20, Amended_____.

The following changes were made to Form DFS-K4-2203 - Employer Cancer Prevention Best Practices - Self-Assessment Tool:

References to the FEMA Safety and Health Considerations for the Design of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Stations were corrected to refer to the May 2018 version, which is the same as the April 2018 version.

~~**69A-62.0262 Behavioral Health Access Program.**~~

~~Behavioral Health Access Programs (BHAP) are comprehensive, integrated, multicomponent, systematic programs for employee mental health and wellness and crisis intervention that provide education, support, assessment, and intervention for employees who may be exposed to or affected by behavioral health issues. A comprehensive BHAP includes prevention, early intervention, treatment, and postvention, in addition to crisis intervention, as referenced in Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services, Mental Health Resource and Response Guide, DFS-K4-0343, Volume 1 (2023 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference and available at the following link: http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19728.~~

Rulemaking Authority 633.520 F.S. Law Implemented 633.520 F.S. History–New _____.

69A-62.0264 Employer Best Practices For Mental Health

Each fire service agency's Mental Health Program should ~~strive for its BHAP services to~~ include education on resiliency, ~~and~~ stress management, peer support, and access to mental healthcare for the members of their organization. These services can be provided either internally, through mutual aid, or through interlocal agreements. ~~Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services, Mental Health Resource and Response Guide, Volume 1 (2023), incorporated by reference in Rule 69A-62.0262, F.A.C, is adopted as a guide and self-assessment tool.~~ Established Best Practices, ~~Additional~~ guides, and resources consist of the following:

(1) No change.

(2) International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Building a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Program Checklist, which is hereby incorporated by reference and may be accessed at https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Building-Comprehensive-Behavioral-Health-Program-2026.pdf or http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-20208 ~~IAFF Behavioral Health/Peer Support Guides, which consist of the following:~~

(a) through (c) are renumbered (3) through (6).

(6) Division of State Fire Marshal Zero Suicide Framework, DFS-K4-0347, Effective 12/2026 ~~MM/YY~~, which is hereby incorporated by reference and may be accessed at http://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19732.

(7) Florida Joint Council of Fire and Emergency Services, Mental Health Resource and Response Guide, DFS-K4-0343, Volume 1 (2023 Edition), which is hereby incorporated by reference and available at the following link: http://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-19728.

Rulemaking Authority 633.520 F.S. Law Implemented 633.520 F.S. History–New____.

The following changes were made to DFS-K4-0347, Division of State Fire Marshal Zero Suicide Framework: Version 1 was updated to version 4, which includes additional workgroup members and resources for fire service departments implementing the Zero Suicide Framework.

69A-62.042 Firefighter Employer Requirements.

(1) No change.

(2) Firefighting Gear Requirements. Each firefighter employer shall purchase firefighting gear that does not contain chemical hazards or toxic substances when such gear becomes readily available on the commercial market.

(a) No change.

(b) Firefighter employers are permitted to follow a phased-in approach for firefighting gear replacement, under which firefighting gear containing chemical hazards or toxic substances are replaced when such firefighting gear requires replacement or reaches the end of its ~~manufacturer's recommended~~ lifespan.

(3) through (4) No change.

Rulemaking Authority 633.508, 633.522 FS. Law Implemented 633.508, 633.522 FS. History–New 9-6-04, Amended____.