

HAMILTON FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDE

PROCEDURE:	PERSONNEL	POLICY P-3
TITLE:	Job Description – <i>Safety Officer</i>	

PURPOSE: The purpose of this guide is to establish a written policy that explains the roll of the Safety Officer.

SCOPE: Firefighting is a dangerous profession. While all accidents and injuries cannot be prevented, there are certain steps that can be taken to minimize the risks. A critical component of risk management in the fire service is the implementation of a Safety Officer. OSHA standards require that there is a Safety Officer present at emergency scenes.

GENERAL: The Safety Officer is appointed by the Fire Chief. The Safety Officer shall be a very experienced firefighter that has earned the respect of their peers. The appointed Safety Officer shall wear a white officer's helmet shield which displays "Safety Officer"

CHAIN OF COMMAND: The Safety Officer reports directly to the Fire Chief.

OPERATIONS: During an emergency incident, training, or any other firematic activity the Safety Officer shall monitor all aspects of the operation. The Safety Officer should continuously work with Incident Command to determine and re-evaluate the risk-benefit analysis as it pertains to operational objectives. The Safety Officer shall also monitor operations looking specifically for high-risk and or unreasonably dangerous activity. This includes monitoring personnel, equipment, and general fireground conditions. **The Safety Officer is authorized by the Fire Chief and has the authority to stop or re-direct any fireground activity that he feels is unreasonably dangerous.**

The Incident Commander may appoint additional Safety Officers as needed during an incident. This may occur if the department Safety Officer is unavailable, or if an incident grows in size or complexity to warrant more than one Safety Officer.

APPROVED BY:	Ross Hoham	EFFECTIVE DATE:	2/25/08
TITLE:	Fire Chief	LAST REVISION:	2/25/08