



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Fire · 209-966-4330



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2021-116

MEETING: March 9, 2021
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mike Van Loben Sels, Acting Fire Chief
RE: Approve Edits to Policy for Physicals for Mariposa County Fire Volunteers

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve an Amendment to Policy 2.35 EMQ for Medical Physicals for Mariposa County Volunteer Members.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

Board approved adoption of policy 2.3.5 on 2-2-21 requiring routine medical physicals of emergency responder volunteer members. However, different interpretation of policy language that exempts support volunteer members is confusing to some. Edits to policy language have been made to clarify differences of requirements for support members vs emergency responders under this policy. There is no change to the policy intent.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

If the amendment is not approved the current policy will be implemented with possible differences of interpretation with department members and staff.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

no new or updated financial impact

ATTACHMENTS:


Fire Department - SOG Section 2.3.5 EMQ and Physicals vs 2 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Wayne Forsythe, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Sweeney, Long, Forsythe, Menetrey

 MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT	REVISION: 2.0
SOG MANUAL	EFFECTIVE DATE:
2.3.5 EMQ and Medical Physicals	APPROVED: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

EMQ and Medical Physicals

Purpose: The Mariposa County Fire Department and Mariposa County are committed to the health and wellness of its members and to providing a safe and healthful work environment. In keeping with this commitment, this policy implements regular medical physicals for Mariposa County Fire Department volunteer members through both electronic medical questionnaires, as well as in person medical physicals performed by a licensed physician or their designee.

Scope: Mariposa County Fire Department volunteer members are called upon to engage in arduous, physically demanding work. An initial in person medical physical by a licensed physician or their designee is required for prior to acceptance into the department to assure members are in sufficient health to perform the physically demanding duties that would be expected. Mariposa County Fire recognizes that over the course of a career, a member's physical attributes, i.e. strength, conditioning, agility and stamina change. Those natural occurring changes have the potential to increase the risk of physical injury or overall health issues while performing duties of a volunteer firefighter. It is the intent of this policy to address the need for routine medical physicals, both electronically though a medical questionnaire in accordance with the Mariposa County Respiratory Protection Program (RPP), as well as in person medical physicals performed by a licensed physician or their designee.

Policy: Mariposa County Fire Department emergency response volunteer members will be provided and shall complete the electronic medical questionnaire as described in the RPP. In person medical physical examinations will be completed by a licensed physician, a physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner functioning under a licensed physician's license in accordance with the following guidelines for emergency response members. See exceptions for volunteer support members.

1. At the time of hire as a volunteer member.
2. When deemed necessary/appropriate through the annual EMQ (Electronic Medical Questionnaire) screening.

3. When deemed necessary/appropriate for return to work after sustaining a potentially compromising injury or relevant medical condition change.
4. Ages 18-39 as dictated through the on-line EMQ process. This may be incorporated with the commercial driver's license (DL) physical.
5. Ages 40-49 every two years or as dictated through the online EMQ process. This may be incorporated with the commercial (DL) physical.
6. Ages 50+ every year or as dictated through the online EMQ process. This may be incorporated with the commercial (DL) physical.

Exceptions:

Support members are exempt from guidelines 2,4,5,6 of this policy

Tracking: In person medical physicals will be provided at no cost to the volunteer member, tracked and scheduled in coordination with the Mariposa County Health Officer or his/her designee and the Mariposa County Fire Department. Volunteer members may utilize their own physician, at their own expense, with the confidential results forwarded to the Mariposa County's Health Officer for review.

The Mariposa County Fire Department shall be advised and shall track compliance with this policy by all volunteer members. All medical information will be kept strictly confidential. The Mariposa County Fire Department shall be advised in writing of any volunteer member who is deemed unable to perform the duties of a volunteer firefighter. Reasons for such a decision will remain confidential and will only be known by the member, their doctor and the Mariposa County Health Officer.

Any Mariposa County volunteer firefighter who becomes non-compliant with the online Emergency Medical Questionnaire (EMQ) within the RPP or in person medical physical in accordance with this policy will not be permitted to be Fit Tested nor respond on behalf of the Mariposa County Fire Department until that member becomes compliant.