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**Table 6-6  
NFPA 1521. Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer  
- Minimum Requirements Applicable to Fairfax County OHSP -**

**ORGANIZATION**

**Assignment**

- Each fire department shall have a designated health and safety officer who reports directly to the Fire Chief or his/her designee.
- Additional assistant health and safety officers will be appointed when activities, size, or character of the fire department warrants extra safety personnel.

**Qualifications of Health and Safety Officer (HSO)**

- HSO shall be a fire department officer and shall meet requirements of NFPA 1021 (*Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*).
- HSO shall have and maintain knowledge of current applicable laws, codes, and standards regulating occupational safety and health to the fire service.
- HSO shall have and maintain knowledge of occupational safety and health hazards involved in emergency operations.
- HSO shall have and maintain knowledge of current principles and techniques of safety management.
- HSO shall have and maintain knowledge of current health maintenance and physical fitness issues affecting fire service members.
- HSO shall have and maintain knowledge of infection control practices and procedures.

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**FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER (HSO)**

**Risk Management**

- HSO shall be involved in development, implementation, and management of the department's risk management plan.
- HSO shall communicate health and safety aspects of the risk management plan to all members through training and education.
- HSO shall monitor the effectiveness of the risk management plan and ensure annual revisions as applicable to fire fighter health and safety.
- HSO shall develop an incident risk management plan that is implemented into the department's incident management system.

**Laws, Codes, Standards**

- HSO shall develop, review, and revise rules, regulations, and standard operating guidelines pertaining to the fire department occupational safety and health program.
- HSO shall ensure adequacy, effectiveness and compliance and periodically report findings to the Fire Chief or his/her designee.

**Training and Education**

- HSO shall ensure training in safety procedures for all members.
- HSO shall develop and distribute safety and health information for the education of all members.

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**FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER (HSO) (Continued)**

**Accident Prevention**

- HSO shall manage an accident prevention program and provide instruction in safe work practices for all members. Program shall address training and testing of all fire department drivers, including all fire apparatus driver/operators.
- HSO shall periodically investigate all occupational injuries, illnesses, exposures, and fatalities, or other potentially hazardous conditions involving fire department vehicles, apparatus, equipment or facilities.

**Facility Inspection**

- HSO shall ensure all fire department facilities are inspected in accordance with NFPA 1500.

**Health Maintenance**

- HSO shall ensure compliance with NFPA 1500.
- HSO shall incorporate medical surveillance, wellness programs, physical fitness, nutrition, and injury and illness rehabilitation into the health maintenance program.

**Liaison**

- HSO shall be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Committee and shall maintain a liaison with all appropriate standards-making organizations, regulatory agencies and safety specialists outside the fire department.
- HSO shall maintain a liaison with the department's physician to ensure needed medical advice and treatment are available to members.

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**FUNCTIONS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER (HSO) (Continued)**

**Infection Control**

- HSO shall maintain a liaison with department's infection control officer and ensure compliance with 29 CFR 1910.1310 and NFPA 1581 (Bloodborne Pathogens/Infection Control, respectively).

**Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)**

- HSO shall ensure the department establishes a CISM program and that the program is incorporated into the member assistance program.

**Post-Incident Analysis**

- HSO shall develop procedures to ensure that safety and health issues are addressed during post-incident analyses.
- HSO shall provide a written report which includes pertinent information about the incident relating to safety and health issues.