



FIRE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK
Supplement No. 28 to Department Order No. 24
March 21, 2019
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2.1.1

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

OSHA COMPLIANCE – FACIAL HAIR AND RESPIRATOR FIT

The OSHA Respiratory Protection standard, paragraph 29 CFR 1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A), states that respirators shall not be worn when facial hair comes between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face, or that interferes with valve function. In general, non-conforming facial hair can cause unreliable respirator fit, and present a higher potential for air leakage.

PAID 6-74

All members are reminded to comply with PAID 6-74, *Firefighter Grooming - Health and Safety Standards*, with particular attention to the following sections:

2.2 FACIAL HAIR:

2.2.1 Mustaches are permitted but shall conform to the following:

- A. They must be closely trimmed.
- B. They must not extend beyond the corners of the mouth.
- C. They must not extend below any portion of the upper lip.

2.2.2 Beards, goatees, or any form of facial hair beneath the lower lip are prohibited.

2.2.3 All members shall be otherwise freshly shaven when reporting for duty.

2.3 SIDEBURNS:

2.3.1 Shall be kept neatly trimmed and close to the face to avoid any possibility of an improper seal with the mask facepiece or N95 respirator.

2.3.2 They shall not extend below the lower extremity of the ear.

BHS ANNUAL MEDICALS REMINDER

When reporting for Periodic Medical Examinations. It is important that members are **freshly shaven** for the mask fit test and to take an updated photo.

Note: Members who are not **freshly shaven** may **not** perform the mask fit test.

Chief and company officers shall ensure compliance with the policy outlined above.

By Order of: **Daniel A. Nigro**, Fire Commissioner
John Sudnik, Chief of Department