

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>Informational Bulletin</h1> <p>2014.01</p>	
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Originating From	Issue Date	Expiration Date
William F Goddard, III Chief of the Department	4/18/14	N/A

SUBJECT: DFRS Career/Uniformed Annual Medical Program Enhancements

APPLICABILITY: All DFRS Career/Uniformed Personnel

DFRS Career/Uniformed Annual Medical Program Enhancements

Howard County Department of Fire & Rescue Services (HCDFRS) continues to strive for excellence as we incrementally implement each one of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation's "16 Life Safety Initiatives". Initiative Number 6 "Develop and implement medical standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters" holds significant importance to me in my role as Chief for the department. The welfare of our personnel always remains as a main focus of our department.

The Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) continues to improve all areas of Safety and Health for our personnel. One of the first areas identified for enhancement is our annual medical evaluation. BOSH has recommended a change within this program will greatly improve the overall effectiveness and services provided to our personnel.

I would like to proudly present the addition of Johns Hopkins Division of Cardiology as the HCDFRS designated cardiology consultants. Johns Hopkins Cardiology will serve as the consultant whenever a cardiovascular irregularity or question arises during an annual physical exam conducted by Concentra, on any HCDFRS career, uniformed personnel. This designation will allow personnel immediate access to cardiology specialists to review their cardiovascular test results and provide clarification on irregular results and recommendations regarding their cardiovascular health and return to full duty.

Currently, all personnel receive their cardiovascular (Bruce Protocol) stress test as part of their annual physical conducted by Concentra. If an individual employee has a perceived cardiac irregularity or if the Concentra doctors have any questions regarding their stress test results, the employee may be placed on a modified duty status and referred to his/her own cardiologist for resolution. This process may immediately remove the employee from shift, and places a great burden on the employee to resolve these issues independently.

Designating Johns Hopkins Cardiology as our specialist greatly reduces the elapsed time between the employee's referral, follow up and resolution. Also with this designation, the employee will get his/her cardiac medical questions resolved faster, thus reducing their overall anxiety, at no cost to the employee.

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BOSH is strategically working on the life safety initiatives that reflect the area of Safety and Health and listed below are just two of those that are addressed in this improvement.

Life Safety Initiative # 2: “Enhance the personal and organizational accountability for health and safety throughout the fire service”.

Life Safety Initiative # 6: “Develop and implement national medical and physical fitness standards that are equally applicable to all firefighters, based on the duties they are expected to perform”.

Approved:

Stephen E. Allen, Sr.
Deputy Fire Chief, Support Services