**Medical Examination and Confidentiality**

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the Safety Health and Survival Section (SHSS) suggest that every volunteer and career firefighter receive an annual medical examination, and that this examination follow as closely as possible the guidance of NFPA 1582.

Departments may use the SHSS’s *A Fire Department’s Guide to Implementing NFPA 1582* as a resource. This guide is designed to support responsibility, understanding and using NFPA 1582, the International Association of Fire Fighters/IAFC’s Wellness Fitness Initiative, and to assist with the development and implementation of an annual medical evaluation program. [For more information, see *A Fire Department’s Guide to Implementing NFPA 1582*: Appendix C: Medical Evaluation Samples and Templates (Pages 88-116) and Prehire Medical History Questionnaire (Page 90).]

<http://iafcsafety.org/implementing-nfpa-1582>

http://www.firecompanies.com/MFC/public/userfiles/file/IAFC%20Safety/00\_NPFA%201582\_FINAL-1.pdf

<http://www.iafc.org/Media/articlePR.cfm?ItemNumber=7292>

CONFIDENTIALITY

Medical and other personal information designated as "Confidential and Proprietary” must not be duplicated or disclosed in any form and must to be protected in accordance with the HIPAA laws. If disclosure of medical and confidential information for evaluation purposes is required to anyone other than the department’s fire chief, this person/entity must request and receive each individual’s specific written authorization. If written authorization is not received, all relevant, legal aspects must be followed to obtain this information. “Confidential and Proprietary” information does not include ideas, concepts, knowledge, or techniques related to information that, at the time of disclosure, is in the public domain unless the entry of that information into the public domain is a result of any breach of an agreement.

Medical information must be collected in a database that can provide both aggregate reports as well as specific individual information, and that is electronically secure to only pre-authorized medical providers.