



MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD.

INFORMATION BULLETIN

NUMBER: 09-15

November 30, 2009

SUBJECT: NIOSH Anthropometric Study of Firefighters

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has selected Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service to participate in its landmark national firefighter anthropometry study. *Anthropometry* is the study of the size and proportions of the human body. This NIOSH study will measure firefighter proportions to influence the safety standards used to design fire and rescue equipment and apparatus.

The fire service has long recognized that firefighter body proportions are not representative of the true firefighter population. Because it is useful for many industry design purposes, it is important to evaluate the body proportions of fire service personnel, using diversity in sex and ethnicity to determine an accurate representation of the firefighter demographic.

This project is funded by NIOSH, with support from the International Association of Fire Fighters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, National Fire Protection Association, International Association of Women in the Fire Service, and the Fire Apparatus Manufacturers Association.

The NIOSH anthropometry study will be conducted at the PSTA, and will take approximately four months to complete. NIOSH will have an on-site facility where all body measurements will be conducted. We expect the study to start December 2nd and last thru March 12th, with a short holiday break. All career and volunteer personnel will be asked to participate in the study. NIOSH representatives will provide the necessary consent form before taking all measurements, which will take about one hour per firefighter to complete, and will include the use of turn out gear. No physical activity is required during the measurement session.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service is considered a national leader in the fire service regarding firefighter safety, health, and survival. The selection of our Department is a result of your professionalism and dedication to maintaining a safe and healthy workforce. This landmark study is intended to further improve the safety of the equipment we use, and the apparatus we ride.

Issued by: Battalion Chief Kevin Frazier