

## Workplace Safety and Health

### 1031.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish an ongoing and effective plan to reduce the incidence of injury and illness for members of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department, in accordance with the requirements of Md. Code LE § 5-101 et seq., Md. Code LE § 5-206, and COMAR 09.12.20.01 et seq.

This policy specifically applies to illness and injury that results in lost time or that requires medical treatment beyond first aid. Although this policy provides the essential guidelines for a plan that reduces injury and illness, it may be supplemented by procedures outside the Policy Manual.

This policy does not supersede, but supplements any related Department-wide safety efforts.

### 1031.2 POLICY

The University of Maryland, Baltimore Police Department (UMBPD) is committed to providing a safe environment for its members and visitors and to minimizing the incidence of work-related illness and injuries. The UMB Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and the UMBPD will provide tools, training and safeguards designed to reduce the potential for accidents, injuries and illness. It is the intent of the Department to comply with all laws and regulations related to occupational safety.

#### 1031.2.1 WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

UMB EHS provides the following to the UMBPD and UMB members (Md. Code LE § 5-104; Md. Code LE § 5-206):

- (a) Workplace safety and health training programs.
- (b) Posted or distributed safety information.
- (c) A system for members to anonymously inform management about workplace hazards.
- (d) Establishment of a safety and health committee that will:
  1. Meet regularly.
  2. Prepare a written record of safety and health committee meetings.
  3. Review the results of periodic scheduled inspections.
  4. Review investigations of accidents and exposures.
  5. Make suggestions to command staff for the prevention of future incidents.
  6. Review investigations of alleged hazardous conditions.
  7. Conduct on-going self-inspections.
  8. Submit recommendations to assist in the evaluation of member safety suggestions.

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9. Assess the effectiveness of efforts made by the Department to meet applicable standards.
- (e) Establishing a process to ensure illnesses and injuries are reported as required under the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health (MOSH) Act (Md. Code LE § 5-702).

### **1031.3 EHS LIAISON RESPONSIBILITIES**

The responsibilities of the Support Services Bureau Commander or authorized designee (E & T Lieutenant) will serve as the EHS Liaison and will be responsible for assisting EHS with the following (Md. Code LE § 5-104; Md. Code LE § 5-206; Md. Code LE § 5-702; Md. Code LE § 5-703):

- (a) Managing and implementing a plan to reduce the incidence of member injury and illness.
- (b) Ensuring that a system of communication is in place that facilitates a continuous flow of safety and health information. This system shall include:
  1. New member orientation that includes a discussion of safety and health policies and procedures.
  2. Regular member review of the injury and illness prevention plan.
- (c) Ensuring that all safety and health policies and procedures are clearly communicated and understood by all members
- (d) Taking reasonable steps to ensure that all members comply with safety rules in order to maintain a safe work environment. This includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Informing members of the illness and injury prevention guidelines.
  2. Recognizing members who perform safe work practices.
  3. Ensuring that the member evaluation process includes member safety performance.
  4. Ensuring department compliance to meet standards regarding the following:
    - (a) Communicable diseases
    - (b) Bloodborne pathogen precautions (29 CFR 1910.1030; Md. Code LE § 5-308.1)
    - (c) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (see the Personal Protective Equipment Policy 705)
    - (d) Emergency Action Plan (29 CFR 1910.38(a); Md. Code PS § 14-110)
    - (e) Reasonable accommodations for disability, including pregnancy (Md. Code SG § 20-601; Md. Code SG § 20-609)
- (e) Making available a form to document inspections, unsafe conditions or unsafe work practices and actions taken to correct unsafe conditions and work practices.
- (f) Making available a form to document individual incidents or accidents (see Workplace Related Injury and Illness Reporting Policy 1022).

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- (g) Making available a form to document the safety and health training of each member. This form will include the member's name or other identifier, training dates, type of training and training providers.

### **1031.4 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Supervisor responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- (a) Ensuring member compliance with injury and illness prevention guidelines and answering questions from members about this policy.
- (b) Training, counseling, instructing, or making informal verbal admonishments any time safety performance is deficient. Supervisors may also initiate discipline when it is reasonable and appropriate under the Standards of Conduct Policy.
- (c) Establishing and maintaining communication with members on health and safety issues. This is essential for an injury-free, productive workplace.
- (d) Completing required forms and reports relating to injury and illness prevention (see Workplace Related Injury and Illness Reporting Policy 1022).
- (e) Notifying through the chain of command process, the Support Services Bureau Commander or authorized designee when:
  1. New substances, processes, procedures, or equipment that present potential new hazards are introduced into the work environment.
  2. New, previously unidentified hazards are recognized.
  3. Occupational injuries and illnesses occur.
  4. New and/or permanent or intermittent members are hired or reassigned to processes, operations, or tasks for which a hazard evaluation has not been previously conducted.
  5. Workplace conditions warrant an inspection.

### **1031.5 HAZARDS**

All members should report and/or take reasonable steps to correct unsafe or unhealthy work conditions, practices, or procedures in a timely manner. Members should make their reports to a supervisor (as a general rule, their own supervisors) (Md. Code LE § 5-104(b)(2)).

Supervisors should make reasonable efforts to correct unsafe or unhealthy work conditions in a timely manner, based on the severity of the hazard. These hazards should be corrected when observed or discovered, when it is reasonable to do so. When a hazard exists that cannot be immediately abated without endangering members or property, supervisors should protect or remove all exposed members from the area or item, except those necessary to correct the existing condition.

Members who are necessary to correct the hazardous condition shall be provided with the necessary protection (see Personal Protective Equipment Policy 705 and Respiratory Protection Program Policy 708).

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All significant actions taken and dates shall be documented on a Form 95 or memorandum and submitted through the chain of command to the EHS Liaison or authorized designee, who will be responsible for ensuring the documentation is forwarded to EHS.

EHS, via the EHS Liaison or authorized designee will take appropriate action to ensure the illness and injury prevention plan addresses potential hazards upon such notification.

### **1031.6 INSPECTIONS**

Safety inspections are crucial to a safe work environment. These inspections identify and evaluate workplace hazards and permit mitigation of those hazards. EHS will conduct periodic workplace hazard assessments and inspections of the UMBPD facilities (Md. Code LE § 5-206).

EHS shall ensure that the appropriate documentation is completed for each inspection.

#### **1031.6.1 EQUIPMENT**

Members are charged with daily vehicle inspections of their assigned vehicles and of their PPE prior to working in the field. Members shall complete a Form 95 or memorandum to document unsafe condition that cannot be immediately corrected. Members shall forward the documentation through the chain of command to the EHS Liaison or authorized designee.

### **1031.7 INVESTIGATIONS**

Any member sustaining any work-related injury or illness, as well as any member who is involved in any accident or hazardous substance exposure while on-duty shall report such event as soon as practicable to a supervisor. Members observing or learning of a potentially hazardous condition are to promptly report the condition to their immediate supervisors (Md. Code LE § 5-206).

A supervisor receiving such a report should personally investigate the incident or ensure that an investigation is conducted. Investigative procedures for workplace accidents and hazardous substance exposures should include:

- (a) A visit to the accident scene as soon as possible.
- (b) An interview of the injured member and witnesses.
- (c) An examination of the workplace for factors associated with the accident/exposure.
- (d) Determination of the cause of the accident/exposure.
- (e) Corrective action to prevent the accident/exposure from reoccurring.
- (f) Documentation of the findings and corrective actions taken.
- (g) Completion of an investigation/corrective action report.

Additionally the supervisor should proceed with the steps to report an on-duty injury, as required under the Work-Related Injury and Illness Reporting Policy 1022, in conjunction with this investigation to avoid duplication and ensure timely reporting.

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### **1031.8 TRAINING**

EHS provides health and safety training to UMBPD members as well as the UMB campus. These trainings are available on their website (<https://www.umaryland.edu/ehs/training/>). The UMBPD E & T Section will ensure all members, including supervisors, with training on general and job-specific workplace safety and health practices. Training shall be provided (Md. Code LE § 5-206):

- (a) To supervisors to familiarize them with the safety and health hazards to which members under their immediate direction and control may be exposed.
- (b) To all members with respect to hazards specific to each member's job assignment.
- (c) To all members given new job assignments for which training has not previously been provided.
- (d) Updates or additions to training:
  - 1. Whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the workplace and represent a new hazard.
  - 2. Whenever the Department is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard.

#### **1031.8.1 TRAINING TOPICS**

Training should include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Reporting unsafe conditions, work practices and injuries, and informing a supervisor when additional instruction is needed.
- (b) Use of appropriate clothing, including gloves and footwear.
- (c) Use of respiratory equipment.
- (d) Availability of toilet, hand-washing and drinking-water facilities.
- (e) Provisions for medical services and first aid.
- (f) Handling of bloodborne pathogens and other biological hazards.
- (g) Prevention of heat and cold stress.
- (h) Identification and handling of hazardous materials, including chemical hazards to which members could be exposed, and review of resources for identifying and mitigating hazards (e.g., hazard labels, Safety Data Sheets (SDS)).
- (i) Mitigation of physical hazards, such as heat and cold stress, noise, and ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.
- (j) Identification and mitigation of ergonomic hazards, including working on ladders or in a stooped posture for prolonged periods.
- (k) Back exercises/stretchers and proper lifting techniques.
- (l) Avoidance of slips and falls.
- (m) Good housekeeping and fire prevention.
- (n) Other job-specific safety concerns.

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- (o) Department and employee rights and responsibilities.
- (p) Emergency Action Plan and/or Fire Prevention Plan.
- (q) Workplace safety plan.

**1031.9 RECORDS**

Records and training documentation relating to injury and illness prevention will be maintained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.