

SUPPRESSION/SUPPORT POLICY

It is the intent of this policy to establish a system for suppression and support groups of PVFD firefighters whose tasks compliment each other. The Command Staff have the responsibility to identify and assign all members to suppression or support designations. The current active roster list will be coded to indicate each member's status.

Suppression designated firefighters are generally defined as those members who can meet the demanding physical requirements of hands on firefighting.

Support designated firefighters are generally defined as those members who request to be support personnel, or those who may not meet the physical demands of firefighting based upon one or more of the following conditions:

Choice	Physical condition
Age	Physical impairments
Weight (High or Low)	Temporary disabilities
Size	Facial hair
Firefighter candidates	Other

A suppression firefighter generally performs the duties of both suppression and support activities. Examples of suppression activities are reserved for suppression firefighters only:

- Interior firefighting w/SCBA
- Exterior firefighting w/SCBA
- Aerial and ground ladder operations w//SCBA
- Offensive firefighting operations

Support personnel are limited to functions that are generally considered to be less physically demanding than suppression activities/without the use of SCBA. Following are examples of support duties:

- Performs driver/operator functions
- Performs command/sector operations
- Performs salvage and overhaul w/o SCBA
- Performs defensive firefighting operations
- Performs SCBA/cascade refill operations
- Performs as runner for communications, tools, and equipment
- Establishes and operates rehab area
- Participates in helicopter landing zone operations

It is the discretion of the incident commander to designate support personnel as suppression personnel under unusual conditions.