

Lactation Breaks

1024.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide reasonable accommodations to members desiring to express breast milk for a nursing child.

1024.2 POLICY

It is the policy of North Whatcom Fire & Rescue to provide reasonable break time and appropriate facilities to accommodate any member desiring to express breast milk for a nursing child for up to two years after the child's birth.

1024.3 LACTATION BREAK TIME

A rest period should be permitted each time the member has the need to express breast milk (29 USC § 207). In general, lactation breaks that cumulatively total 30 minutes or less during any four-hour work period or major portions of a four-hour work period would be considered reasonable. However, individual circumstances may require more or less time. Such breaks, if feasible, should be taken at the same time as the member's regularly scheduled rest or meal periods.

A reasonable effort will be made to provide additional time beyond authorized breaks.

Members desiring to take a lactation break shall notify their supervisor prior to taking such a break. Such breaks may be reasonably delayed if they would seriously disrupt district operations.

Once a lactation break has been approved, the break should not be interrupted except for emergency or exigent circumstances.

1024.4 PRIVATE LOCATION

The District will make reasonable efforts to accommodate members with the use of an appropriate room or other location to express milk in private. Such room or place should be in close proximity to the member's work area and shall be other than a bathroom. The location must be shielded from view and free from intrusion from coworkers and the public (29 USC § 207; RCW 43.10.005).

Members occupying such private areas shall either secure the door or otherwise make it clear to others that the area is occupied with a need for privacy. All other members should avoid interrupting a member during an authorized break, except to announce an emergency or other urgent circumstance.

Authorized lactation breaks for members assigned to the field may be taken at the nearest appropriate private area.

1024.5 STORAGE OF EXPRESSED MILK

Any member storing expressed milk in any authorized refrigerated area within the District shall clearly label it as such. No expressed milk shall be stored at the District beyond the member's shift.

Lactation Breaks

1024.6 SIGNATURE APPROVAL

Approved:



Chairman, Board of Fire Commissioners

North Whatcom Fire and Rescue

Date:

8-20-2020
