

Standard Operating Guidelines

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Guideline # 130.02

Date: 3/09R

PURPOSE

To provide policy and guidelines relative to the proper personal protection, in the form of protective clothing, to all Fire District members exposed to dangerous situations and hazardous atmospheres and/or environments.

POLICY

- A. Fire District members shall utilize and wear protective clothing and safety gear as prescribed by those policies and procedures contained herein.
- B. Use of protective clothing as defined and prescribed within this policy shall be considered mandatory during emergency operations and/or whenever the chance or risk of personal injury to Fire District members may exist.
- C. The Fire District shall provide its members with the proper type of approved protective clothing, which is currently available in the safety clothing market.
- D. All protective clothing shall be inspected every three (3) months, by the Safety Officer or company level officer. Each member shall inspect their respective gear monthly. An inspection Form shall be completed and forwarded to the Fire Chief upon completion.

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Chiefs have the overall responsibility to insure that the members of their shifts abide by Fire District policies regarding the use of protective clothing.
- B. All Fire District members are directly responsible for their personal safety and shall utilize proper protective clothing as prescribed within this policy.

DEFINITIONS

All Fire District personnel shall wear and utilize full protective clothing as defined herein.

Full Protective Clothing

- A. Helmet
- B. Gloves
- C. Turnout coat and PASS device.
- D. Hood
- E. Turnout pants (with suspenders).
- F. Turnout boots - short (night) boots.
- G. Scott face-piece and Bag

GENERAL PROCEDURES

A. Emergency Operations:

1. Personnel actively engaged in fire fighting shall wear full protective gear. Any person without proper gear shall not enter the fire building or engage themselves in activities in the immediate area. If the fire building or adjoining buildings are deemed safe by the Officer in charge, individuals (Fire Fighters and civilians) may be permitted to enter.
2. All members shall wear and utilize appropriate (fire or E.M.S.) clothing during emergency operations.
3. Members shall not remove their protective clothing until such time as their Company Officer or the officer-in-charge determines that such protection is no longer necessary or that a reduced level of protective clothing will be sufficient.
4. If, in their opinion, operating conditions warrant a change, Company Officers may increase or decrease the level of protective clothing, which is required for themselves and their personnel, but the responsibility to protect their personnel from injury remains with that officer.
5. If, during multiple company operations, the Incident Commander specifies a certain level of protective clothing, then Company Officers shall not decrease that level for themselves or their personnel unless they are given permission to do so by the Incident Commander.

B. During alarm response:

1. Members responding in or on fire apparatus shall wear their protective clothing. Turnout gear is not necessary for E.M.S. calls of a medical or behavioral nature. Depending on the nature of trauma, turnout gear may be required.
2. Operators are not required to wear their protective clothing while driving. After arriving on the fire-ground and after performing all essential emergency operations, operators shall put on their protective clothing.
3. Those members responding to alarms in enclosed vehicles, or partially enclosed apparatus, are not required to wear helmets during response but must have all their assigned protective clothing available once they reach the scene.
4. If, during a response to an alarm, an unusual condition or hazard presents itself, the Company Officer may, at His/her discretion, order all personnel, including drivers, into any level of protective clothing which may be necessary to protect said personnel from injury or death.

C. During training:

1. Members engaged in hands on fire training sessions shall wear full protective clothing.
2. Officers or members conducting training sessions are responsible to insure that adequate protective clothing is utilized properly by all personnel involved. Full protective clothing shall be worn during simulated hazardous environments.

3. When the driver is training, the protective clothing to be worn by those participating in the exercise shall be at the discretion of the Company Officer.
- D. Routine operations:
1. Members involved shall use appropriate safety gear and/or protective clothing when engaged in routine activities, which may present a personal safety hazard. If members have questions regarding the need for safety gear for such routine activities or if they wish to obtain said gear; they shall contact their immediate supervisor before beginning said activities.
 2. Members involved in fire company inspections or pre-planning activities or tours shall, when necessary, wear proper and adequate protective clothing during such inspections, activities, or tours, so as to provide protection from any hazard, which may be present in the area.
 3. Members involved in fire company inspections, tours, or pre-planning activities shall, when not wearing it, have full protective clothing available should the need for it arise.
 4. When working around a charged hose that is being tested, all members shall wear protective helmets.
- E. Maintenance:
1. All safety gear such as goggles, breathing apparatus, etc., shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and departmental policy.
 2. All protective clothing such as turnout clothing, helmets, safety boots, work shirts, jackets, and pants shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and District policy.
 3. All protective clothing will be cleaned on a regular basis.
 4. Protective clothing with small holes or rips are not to be considered needing replacement unless there is a considerable number of them.
 5. All helmets are required to have all designations and safety stripes as required by the department.

Date:

District Chief: