

Township Of Jackson, Fire District 3, Station 55
Standard Operating Guidelines

Gear Cleaning/Decontamination

Guideline # 220.14

Date: 5/09 R

PURPOSE

This procedure outlines the proper methods for washing and decontaminating turnouts and the proper use of the Maytag Extractor.

POLICY

Gear shall be washed in the extractor according to the manufacturers recommendations and shall be washed at least once per year. When gear is contaminated or suspected to be contaminated universal precautions shall be used.

DEFINITIONS

Red Bag- A bag to place bio-hazard clothing in for identification and cleaning.

Grossly contaminated- As a general rule of thumb any area greater than 5" by 5" either cumulatively or by itself.

PROCEDURES-Routine cleaning

Gear shall never be taken home for cleaning, nor shall public facilities such as Laundromats be used. Cleaning shall be done in house or by the Districts contracted vendor when needed.

The end user is responsible for routine cleaning.

Gear shall be washed by hose, mild soap and brushed after contamination at fire scenes and periodically to keep contaminants from building up in the fabric. When the gear is grossly dirty it shall be washed in the extractor, but not more than two times per year.

Dirty gear shall be kept separated from other gear/equipment to prevent cross contamination until cleaned.

Gear being washed without use of the extractor shall be air dried. Dry in area with good ventilation and do not dry in direct sunlight.

After cleaning the end user shall evaluate cleaning and if needed wash again.

Footwear shall be washed with a mild soap and water and brushed clean in a utility sink if possible. Machine washing and drying is not to be used on footwear.

PROCEDURES-Advanced cleaning

Gear shall never be taken home for cleaning, nor shall public facilities such as Laundromats be used. Cleaning shall be done in house or by the Districts contracted vendor when needed.

When gear is contaminated or suspected to be contaminated universal precautions shall be used.

All soiled gear shall be washed with the Districts extractor with the exception of those grossly contaminated with bodily fluids. Grossly contaminated gear is to be "red bagged" and placed in appropriate "container" to be sent out for cleaning. Once placed in container notify Chief's so gear can be processed. Minor contamination can be cleaned in house following manufacturers recommendation of pre-treatment of soiled areas with Lysol prior to cleaning.

Gear contaminated with hazardous materials shall be evaluated at the scene for proper cleaning and or disposal.

Gear contaminated by CBRN terrorism agents shall be immediately taken out of service. Shall be disposed of properly.

Inspect gear after cleaning and if needed rewash.

Extractor Use

When washing gear, water temperature shall not exceed 100 degrees. Bleach shall never be used on turnouts. Only soap to be used in extractor is a mild liquid soap such as Cheer. All the protocols for washing our gear are pre-programmed in the extractor utilizing program #4.

All pockets must be double checked to make sure they are empty prior to placing in extractor.

For those coats that have DRD remove prior to placing in extractor.

The liners of all pants and coats shall be separated from the outside garments. Once separated, the coat and pants must be turned inside out and all Velcro, straps, belts, buckles must be fastened prior to washing. This will protect the gear and extractor.

The extractor will handle up to 35 pounds of turnouts in it. This equates to two and a half sets of turnouts. Do not overload the machine.

Place turnouts in machine that are to be cleaned and close door. Place $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of liquid soap detergent into area "B" on the top of the machine. A flashing "Select Cycle" is illuminated on the machine. Press number "4" on the keypad and then depress the

green diamond to start the extractor. The machine will go through its cycle.

After the cycles are complete, open the door and remove the turnouts. Turnouts are to be air dyed. Place turnouts in appropriate position on the Ram Air gear dryer, set timer and turn unit on. Never place in a hot air dryer to dry.

Documentation

Gear being washed shall have all its pertinent information recorded in the log book located at the extractor.

Coat Serial #
Pants Serial #
Date Cleaned
Person cleaning
Reason for cleaning

Approved:

Date:

District Chief

Date:

Company Chief

Date:

Board