

SUBJECT: SAFETY PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**SECTION: 306.09****REVISED: OCTOBER 15, 2002****PAGE(S): 3**

PURPOSE

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

POLICY

- A. Fire Department 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 of risk of personal injury to Fire Department members may exist.
- C. The Fire Department shall provide, and maintain at no cost to the employee, the appropriate protective ensemble/protective clothing to protect members from the hazards to which the member is likely to be exposed.
- D. Turnout gear shall be inspected annually by an individual qualified by the Department.
- E. Protective clothing and protective equipment shall be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This requirement applies to Fire Fighter's personally owned equipment as well as equipment issued by the Department.
- F. A washing machine has been installed at Station 84 to assist members in maintaining their protective clothing.
- G. Any protective clothing that is found unsafe should be tagged, removed from service immediately, and forward to the appropriate officer for repair.
- H. Any protective clothing that is not issued by the fire department shall be approved by the Fire Chief prior to use.
- I. Fire Fighters shall be trained in the function, donning and doffing, care, use, inspection, maintenance and limitations of the protective equipment assigned to them or available for their use.

DEFINITIONS

All Fire Department personnel shall wear and utilize full protective clothing that complies with all applicable NFPA standards as defined herein:

- A. Helmet with eye protection (NFPA 1972)
- B. Gloves (NFPA 1973)
- C. Turnout coat (NFPA 1971)
- D. Turnout pants with suspenders (NFPA 1971)
- E. Night boots or leather boots (NFPA 1974)
- F. Hood (NFPA 1971)
- G. SCBA facepiece (NFPA 1981)

PROCEDURE

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.
2. Members should not remove 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.
3. When operating forcible entry equipment and tools, full protective clothing shall be worn.
4. Eye protection should be utilized at any time that the need seems apparent such as during overhaul, when operating hand or power tools, and when fighting trash fires, grass fires, and any other fires where the SCBA is not being worn.
5. Gloves and boots should be worn when engaged in firefighting, overhaul, training with hose and ladders, when using hand or power tools, and any other situation where injuries to the hands or feet are likely to occur.
6. Helmets and turnout coat and/or vest should be worn when operating near moving vehicles such as EMS incidents in the street.

7. In specific situations for which no guidelines have been provided, the proper protective clothing to protect against all foreseeable hazards shall be worn.

B. During Alarm Response

1. Members responding in or on fire apparatus shall wear their protective clothing.
2. It shall be optional for operators, command personnel and rescue unit personnel.
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 in quarters, all members should dress accordingly prior to response.
5. If, during 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.

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Fire Chief has the overall responsibility to insure that the members abide by Fire Department policies regarding the use of protective clothing.
- B. Each member is directly responsible for their personal safety and should utilize proper protective clothing as prescribed within this policy.
- C. Each member is responsible for cleaning, care, and maintenance of his protective clothing and for obtaining repairs or replacement items.