

# **PERSONNAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

**DATE APPROVED: July 2007**

## **I. Scope**

This standard applies to all members required to work in hazardous environments. It is to establish guidelines for the use of protective clothing and equipment to reduce the risk of illness, injury, or death that might result from a member's exposure to a hazardous environment.

## **II. General**

- A. Each member shall wear protective clothing and use equipment appropriate for the hazards to which they are exposed to.
- B. Each member shall properly maintain the protective clothing and equipment that have been issued to them and that are carried on the apparatus.
- C. Any equipment or protective clothing that is found to be unsafe or inoperable shall be removed from service immediately, and forwarded to the Fire Chief.

## **III. Structural Firefighting**

- A. Each member shall be issued protective clothing and equipment that comply with all applicable NFPA standards and local requirements. These items shall include:
  - 1. Helmet (NFPA 1972).
  - 2. Boots (NFPA 1974).
  - 3. Gloves (NFPA 1973).
  - 4. Coat (NFPA 1971).
  - 5. Pants with suspenders (NFPA 1971).
  - 6. Hood (NFPA 1971).
- B. Each member operating within a perimeter designated as hazardous by the incident safety officer shall wear their full protective clothing in the prescribed manner. The incident safety officer shall determine when and if it is safe to remove some or all of the clothing.
- C. Members shall be fully clothed beneath their turnouts.
- D. To assist members with identifying rank at an incident scene, helmets are color-coded as follows:
  - 1. White: chief officers.
  - 2. Red: company officers.
  - 3. Black: firefighters.

## **IV. SCBA**

- A. All self-contained breathing apparatus used by the department shall comply with NFPA 1981.

- B. Unless the safety of the atmosphere can be determined by testing and continuous monitoring, all personnel shall use SCBA while working in areas where:
  - 1. The atmosphere is hazardous.
  - 2. The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
  - 3. The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.
- C. Members wearing SCBA shall always work in teams of at least two members each.
- D. SCBA and spare cylinders shall be kept on each apparatus and be available for immediate use.
- E. SCBA shall not be removed until the incident safety officer has determined by testing that the atmosphere is no longer hazardous and that CO levels are less than 50 ppm.

#### **V. Wildland Firefighting**

- A. Members who are issued wildland gear shall be issued wildland pants and a wildland jacket. The member will also be issued leather gloves which shall be kept as part of the wildland gear. When wearing the wildland gear during suppression, the firefighter shall wear the pants, the jacket, gloves, steel toe boots, a helmet, and use eye protection. The boots can be bunker boots issued by the department, or other steel toe boots approved by the Fire Chief. The wildland gear shall be used for the following types of incidents; grass, brush, forest, and wildland fires, and any other fire of like kind.
- B. If wildland gear is unavailable, the incident safety officer shall determine the level of protection that is required. At minimum, protection shall include pants and shirt, gloves, helmet, eye protection, and protective footwear.

#### **VI. Other Protective Clothing and Equipment**

- A. EMS personnel shall be issued coveralls. This will be the required PPE for emergency medical incidents. On days with a high heat index, the Fire Chief, or EMS Coordinator will advise what PPE is required for these types of incidents.
- B. NFPA 1999 is the Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations.
- C. Members shall wear gloves when in contact with a patient or in the presence of body fluids.
- D. Gloves and other protective devices shall be disposed of after being used and shall not be reused. For multiple casualty incidents, use a new pair gloves for each patient.
- E. Contaminated garments shall be placed in a red biohazard bag for proper disposal. Under no circumstances shall contaminated items be disposed of in station trash.
- F. Non EMS personnel shall wear plain clothing to medical incidents.

### **VIII. Responsibilities**

- A. The Fire Chief is responsible for the cleaning, care, and maintenance of all department PPE, and equipment and for obtaining repairs or replacement items.
- B. The incident safety officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all members operating within the hazardous perimeter of an incident are properly attired and using the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. Any member who is in violation of this procedure shall be ordered to promptly leave the hazardous area.