

Halifax Fire Department

July 10, 2003

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

Protective Clothing

2.01 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, hazardous atmospheres and/or environments.

2.02 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 or risk of personal injury to Fire Department members may exist.

C. The Fire Department shall provide its members with the proper type of approved protective clothing.

D. All protective clothing shall be inspected every (6) months.

2.03 RESPONSIBILITY

A. Company Officers have the overall responsibility to insure that the members of their company abide by Fire Department policies regarding the use of protective clothing.

B. All Fire Department members are directly responsible for their personal safety and shall utilize proper protective clothing as prescribed within this policy.

2.04 DEFINITIONS

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

(Structural) Full Protective Clothing

- A. Helmet
- B. Gloves
- C. Turnout coat.
- D. Hood
- E. Turnout pants (with suspenders).
- F. Turnout boots - short (night) boots.
- G. SCBA with PASS and Facepiece
- H. Shield or Goggles

(Wildland) Full Protective Clothing

- A. Helmet
- B. Hood
- C. Wildland Coat
- D. Wildland Pants
- E. Work Boots
- F. Gloves
- G. Structural Gear is acceptable
- H. Shield or Goggles

(EMS) Full Protective Clothing

- A. Gloves (Medical Examination)
- B. Face shield and mask
- C. Gown (impervious)

2.05 GENERAL PROCEDURES

A. Emergency Operations:

1. Personnel actively engaged in fire fighting shall wear structural 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 (Firefighters and civilians) may be permitted to enter.
2. All members shall wear and utilize appropriate clothing during emergency operations.

3. Members shall not remove their protective clothing until such time as 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 his/her opinion, operating conditions warrant a change, The Officer in Charge 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.
2. Operators are not required to wear their protective clothing while driving. After arriving on the fireground and after performing all essential emergency operations, operators must put on their protective clothing.
3. 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 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 on driver's 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.
2. Members involved in inspections or pre-planning activities shall, when necessary wear proper and adequate protective clothing during such inspections or activities, so as to provide protection from any hazard which may be present in the area.
3. Members involved in inspections 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.
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.
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.