

Central Joint Fire District

Standard Operating Procedure



Central Joint Fire District

SUBJECT: Protective Clothing
(Turnout Gear)

SOP Number: 414
Effective Date: 1/8/92
Revised Date: 2/1/02
Approved:

PURPOSE: The intent of this standard is to define protective clothing, when and how it should be worn, and instructions for its care and maintenance.

SCOPE: This standard is to be adhered to by all firefighters involved in the area of an emergency incident, or area of training where protective clothing is required to be worn.

ENFORCEMENT: Since safety concerns everyone, each firefighter responding to or operating at an incident, or training session, has the responsibility of ensuring that him/herself as well as those firefighters operating around him/herself is properly wearing protective clothing.

DEFINITION:

Protective Clothing - Designed to provide protection to the firefighter while engaged in activities in a hazardous environment.

Department Equipment - The department issues all fire fighting personnel a complete set of turnout gear that meets current NFPA standards.

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment

Standards - Issued protective equipment shall be properly sized for the wearer and shall meet or exceed that required by the Ohio Administrative Code 4121:1-21.

APPLICATION: All personnel on the scene of an emergency or training activities shall properly wear Protective clothing where they may encounter conditions hazardous to life or health. Personnel shall resist the desire to remove protective clothing while on scene or training grounds. The Incident Commander will issue order to "Gear Down" when the scene is considered safe.

Protective clothing shall be considered properly worn when the helmet is secured to the head by a chin strap, with ear flaps down, NFPA hood in place and tucked inside coat, all inner and outer closure fastened on coat and trousers, coat collar up and secured, gloves on with wristlet completely covering wrist area and boots worn with trousers overlapping calf area of boots.

It is the responsibility of each member to properly use and maintain the protective clothing issued him/her by this Department as prescribed in the Standard Operating Procedures.

Any member wanting to purchase PPE on his or her own must have approval of Fire Chief before used in a Department activity.

414.1 Care and Maintenance

With proper care and minimal maintenance PPE will provide the wearer with several years of service.

All PPE shall be kept as clean as possible. After returning to station, all firefighters who were involved in the extinguishment or overhaul of a fire shall at a minimum rinse off all PPE with water. At least yearly all PPE shall be thoroughly cleaned according to NFPA 1991, specific cleaning instructions listed below.

Any questions regarding care and maintenance of your issued PPE should be directed to your officer. Under NO circumstance shall any repairs, alterations, ECT be performed on PPE by other than factory authorized personnel.

414.2 Specific Cleaning Instructions

Helmet – Warm soapy water (mild soap), rinse thoroughly

Hood – Hand or machine-wash with hot water (140 degrees F) use liquid detergent. Tumble dry on low heat or air dry.

Coat and Pants – Hand or machine wash with warm water, use only liquid detergent. Tumble dry on low heat or drip dry.

Gloves – Hand or machine wash with warm water, use only liquid detergent. Tumble dry on low heat.

DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACHES, detergents with chlorine additives, use softeners, or anti-stats or launder with other clothes.

414.3 Damaged/Lost

All members shall report any damage or loss of issued PPE to their superior officer, in writing at the earliest possible time, and shall include all pertinent facts as to the damage or loss.

Every six month all PPE shall be thoroughly inspected by the Personal Equipment Officer to determine serviceability. PPE should be considered for repair or retirement if any of the following exist.

- A. Worn areas, tears, missing stitches, hardware detachment or detached trim. Should be repaired.
- B. Any change in outer shell suppleness, color or weave irregularities should be repaired if possible or retired.
- C. Moisture barriers should be inspected at high wear areas for abrasion, cracks or deterioration and retired if necessary.

PPE that is damaged or otherwise defective to point of voiding its intended protection shall be removed from service immediately.

At the discretion of the Chief, the District and this Department will not be financially responsible for the replacement of PPE that is lost, misplaced, or damaged because of neglect on the part of the member.

414.4 Return of PPE

Members shall surrender ALL issued PPE upon separation from the Department or proper request from an officer. This shall be done within 48 hours of separation or request.