

101 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE:

To establish an inspection, use and maintenance program for Personal Protective Equipment.

101.1 ISSUANCE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

1. All Firefighter 1 candidates, and lateral entry structural firefighting department members will be issued structural turnouts:
 - a) bunker coat
 - b) bunker pants with suspenders.
 - c) boots
 - d) nomex hood
 - e) helmet
 - f) gloves
 - g) flashlight
 - h) hearing protection
 - i) spanner wrench
 - j) hose strap
 - k) personal safety rope
 - l) latex or nitrile gloves
 - m) hearing protection

2. All Wildland Firefighter 2 candidates and lateral entry wildland firefighting department members will be issued wildland turnouts:
 - a) nomex shirt
 - b) department tee shirt
 - c) nomex over pants or “green” BDU style nomex jeans
 - d) helmet
 - e) neck shroud
 - f) headlamp
 - g) goggles
 - h) gloves
 - i) hearing protection
 - j) web belt with fire shelter
 - i) The department will provide a \$100.00 stipend towards a firefighters purchase of 8” high leather lug soled boots.

101-2 INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

1. Periodic Inspection
 - a) Each Firefighter shall be responsible for periodic inspection of gear issued to them.

 - b) Any discrepancy found will be reported to their supervisor, who will request replacement of defective gear.

 - c) Annual inspections of all gear shall be performed at a formal inspection by the training officer or his/her designee.

- d) No gear found to be defective may be used by any person.

2. Cleaning:

- a) Structural turnouts shall be DECONED prior to leaving the fire scene if involved in firefighting operations. Use of a garden hose or fire hose is acceptable.
- b) Any non-disposable protective equipment that is contaminated with blood or other body fluids should be considered as infectious material.
 - i) The PPE should be removed as soon as possible and bagged in a biohazard bag.
 - ii) Biohazard bags are on the all engines.
 - iii) Cleaning of bloodborne pathogen contaminated gear may be referred to a commercial laundry service.
- c) Turnouts are contaminated with hazardous materials should be immediately removed from service and stored in a container that will prohibit contamination of personnel or other equipment.
 - i) Also see SOP 1102 Hazardous Materials Post-Incident Decontamination.
- d) All structural and wildland turnout washing, except as in b.iii, shall be done in the department's PPE washing machine.
 - i) Instructions for washing will be posted at the machine.
 - ii) WINSOL is the department's approved solvent for cleaning PPE.
- e) Turnouts shall be dried in the hose dryer located at Station 31.
- f) Boots and respiratory protection equipment may be washed using warm water with mild detergents only.

3. Storage:
 - a) Firefighters should store their turnouts in a dry place, away from sunlight. The District will provide gear bags for firefighters use.

101-3 MANDATORY USE

1. Structural Turnouts:
 - a) Firefighters shall wear full structural turnouts whenever the risk of exposure to heat or flame exists at a structural fire response, whenever entering a structural involved in fire or believed to involved in fire, or when operating anywhere on the fireground at a structural fire response.
 - b) Turnouts shall be worn on rescue responses to motor vehicle accidents or when safety conditions warrant, at the discretion of the incident commander.
2. Wildland Turnouts
 - a) Firefighters shall wear wildland turnouts whenever fighting wildland fires. Firefighters may wear structural turnouts in place of wildland turnouts when assigned to protect structures at wildland fires, or when wildland fires in cold, wet or windy weather. Care should be taken to monitor overheating.

101-4 UNDERGARMENTS

Firefighters should avoid wearing any garments beneath turnouts that have poor thermal stability or are extremely flammable. Good choices of clothing include cotton, wool, or nomex. Rayon, polyester and other synthetics should be avoided. Long sleeved T-shirts, and light pants or trousers are recommended.

101-5 HEARING PROTECTION

All firefighters will be issued hearing protection. Firefighters shall use hearing protection whenever exposed to loud noise, such as when operating chainsaws, generators or rescue equipment.

101-6 COMPLIANCE, REPAIR AND RETIREMENT

1. All PPE shall meet the following standards:
 - a) Turnouts: NFPA 1971, 1986 edition.
 - b) Helmets: NFPA 1972, 1987 edition.
 - c) Gloves: NFPA 1973, 1993 edition.
2. Any PPE needing repair shall be turned in to the training officer. The training officer shall issue replacement gear if available. The PPE needing repair shall be sent to a qualified repair facility.

The training officer shall make the determination regarding PPE retirement. If questions arise as to the need for a particular piece of equipment to be retired, it should be turned in to the training officer.

102 SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS USE

Purpose:

SCBA use protects the wearer from hazardous atmospheres when properly worn by a trained user. This SOP sets the guidelines for use and training.

References: WAC 296-305-04001, WAC 296-62-07115, NFPA 1500 3-4.4, 5-3.6,5-3.7,5-3.9, SJFPD#3 AD-49.

102-1 USE OF SCBA

1. SCBA will be used whenever the firefighter will encounter or might encounter an atmosphere immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH) . This will include:
 - a) Any atmosphere believed to be deficient in oxygen, or containing toxic gases or super heated air.
2. Firefighters should not enter hazardous environments for which they have not received training, or do not have appropriate respiratory protective equipment. This may include releases of hazardous materials or toxic gases, or confined space rescues.

102-2 TRAINING

1. Prior to using SCBA, all firefighters will receive adequate training in the use of SCBA. This training will include:
 - a) respiratory hazards
 - b) limitations of SCBA protection
 - c) SCBA components.
 - d) donning
 - e) doffing
 - f) inspection
 - g) cleaning
 - h) emergency procedures
2. All firefighters will demonstrate competence in the subjects listed above prior to use of SCBA. through completion of a written testing and skills demonstration. .
3. All firefighters certified to use SCBA will demonstrate the use of SCBA at least quarterly.
 - a) One or more drill each quarter will include the use of SCBA.
 - b) Each firefighter certified to use SCBA shall demonstrate the above skills according to the State Firefighter I standards.
 - c)

102-3 PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

1. Firefighters must have current medical clearance by the department physician or his/her appointee to use SCBA.
2. Firefighters with facial hair that contacts the seal of the SCBA face piece will not be allowed to use SCBA.
3. Firefighters with vision problems will be issued mask mounted spectacle kits. The use of eyeglasses that pass through the seal of the SCBA will not be allowed.

102-4 ISSUANCE OF SCBA Face Pieces

1. SCBA Face pieces:
 - a) Each firefighter who might wear SCBA will be issued a facepiece. The face piece will be issued prior to any training or response that would require the use of SCBA.
 - b) Each face piece issued will be marked with the initials of the individual to whom it has been fit tested.
 - c) At the time of issuance, the firefighter shall be fit tested to determine an adequate seal is attained. Fit testing shall be performed according to Chapter 296-62 WAC and Chapter 296-305-04001 WAC.
 - d) Each firefighter shall be fit tested annually. Fit testing shall be in negative pressure mode, using isoamylacetate ampules. A record of each fit test shall be maintained.

102-5 MAINTENANCE OF SCBA

1. Each SCBA should be inspected according to Firefighter 1 standards prior to being placed in service, and after each use.
2. Each SCBA should be cleaned and inspected after every exposure to a potentially hazardous atmosphere and additionally as necessary.
3. SCBAs shall be flow tested annually by an manufacturer certified technician
4. .

102-6 RECHARGING OF AIR CYLINDERS

1. Air quality samples shall be collected from the cascade filling compressor quarterly. Samples will be tested by an independent laboratory and certified at a minimum level of CGA Grade "D".
2. Gloves, head and eye protection shall be worn while refilling air cylinders.
3. Cylinders shall be filled according to the instructions posted in the cascade system.

102-7 RESPIRATORS

1. The Incident Commander, in consultation with the Safety Officer or an available specialists, may authorize the use of canister type respirators or N95 type mask .

