

# Operating Guidelines

Section: Protective Clothing and Equipment

Subject: Wearing Appropriate Level of Protective Clothing

Number: 101

Date Issued: August 3, 2010

Date Revised: October 3, 2017

## Definition

Protective clothing shall include: issued gloves, issued coveralls issued steel toe rubber fire boots, leather boots, issued balaclava's, issued helmets, complete with suspension liner, chin strap and face shield. Turnout coat and bunker pants complete with liners.

## Guidelines

### 101.1

**Structural Fire Fighting:** All Firefighters shall wear full protective clothing, which has been issued to them.

### 101.2

**Auto Extrication:** All Firefighters shall wear the protective clothing they have been issued for auto extrication incidents. It may be possible at the commanding officer discretion to reduce to coveralls, safety boots, gloves, helmets and eye protection if department member safety will not be compromised.

### 101.3

**Hazardous Materials Incidents:** All shall wear the protective clothing they have been issued for hazardous materials incidents. The minimum protection shall be turnout gear. In addition, if specialized equipment shall be requested by the commanding officer, only those members who have received training in the use of specialized equipment shall utilize this equipment.

### 101.4

**Wildland Fires:** Minimum protection shall be: approved helmet with visor, or approved safety helmets with appropriate eye protection; fire fighting boots or industrial safety boots; fire fighting gloves or leather gloves; and coveralls.

## 101.5

**Medical Assist:** Minimum protection shall be: protective gloves, eye protection, issued coveralls, and industrial safety boots. N-95 masks are strongly advised.

## 101.6

**Training:** All Firefighters shall wear the protective clothing they have been issued at all training situations, at all simulated exercises and at such other times, as deemed necessary by the instructor.

During hands-on training, not requiring full turnout clothing, minimum protection shall be approved helmets, gloves and boots. It is recognized that there may be training that does not require any protective equipment, however, at no time shall department member's safety be compromised.

## 101.7

**Activities not Specifically Referenced:** The level of protective clothing to be worn shall be the responsibility of the commanding officer in all situations, not specifically referenced in the procedure.

## 101.8

### **Methods of Wearing:**

- a) When in close proximity to the fire, or when wearing breathing apparatus, balaclavas shall be worn, helmet earflaps shall be down and fastened securely, chin strap in use and properly adjusted with the turnout coat collar up to protect the neck and face area. All bunker coat clips and velcro flaps, including the inside flap shall be fastened securely. Gloves shall be worn and the helmet adjusted to fit.
- b) When not wearing breathing apparatus the above will apply with the addition that the face shield in the down position, or safety goggles shall be used at all times that the need for eye protection is apparent, such as; overhaul, trash fires, grass fires, operating band or power tools and in the vicinity of operating hose streams.
- c) Gloves shall be worn when engaged in fire fighting, training, or any other situations where injuries to the hands may occur.
- d) Firefighters shall not use another's protective clothing without their specific permission or on the direct orders of the Fire Chief or designate.

## **Responsibility**

It shall be responsibility of all Firefighters to wear all of the protective clothing supplied by the Department in the manner for which it is intended and designed prescribed by

the O.G. and in accordance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act and Guidance Notes Numbers 1, 2 & 6.

Personnel who have defective, worn out or missing, or outdated protective clothing shall report it to their chief or designate immediately who will arrange to have it repaired or replaced as soon as possible.