

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- A. The intent of this guideline is to assure proper personnel protection and public recognition of qualified assistance to their emergencies. This guideline is not intended to supersede other PPE requirements.
- B. A member may incur a disciplinary action for not wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) or proper outerwear. Members are expected to be personally responsible to wear the proper PPE for the task being performed following reasonable risk evaluations.
- C. There MAY be instances when members may not have the PPE or PFD outerwear immediately available. It is not the intent of this guideline to address those few incidents, however members are encouraged to have their PPE and PFD outerwear available at all times. PFD outerwear is NOT considered to be PPE.
- D. All Fire Dispatched Incidents:
 - 1. Full protective clothing, including SCBA, shall be worn at all structure, vehicle and dumpster fires. (except for District 60 / District 61). Personnel are encouraged to don the coat prior to boarding.
 - 2. All personnel must remain seat belted at all times while the vehicle is in motion.
 - 3. The vehicle driver is exempt from wearing PPE during the response; however the driver is encouraged to wear a minimum of PPE pants, suspenders and boots.
- E. All Other Dispatched Incidents:
 - 1. All personnel must be appropriately attired. This specifically means that PFD outerwear must be worn. If PFD outerwear is not available at the time of the response, the minimum attire is pants, suspenders and boots.

PPE STORAGE AND CLEANING

A. Purpose:

To establish a guideline for proper storage and care of protective clothing.

B. Scope:

This guideline is for the storage of all protective clothing while not in use and cleaning of clothing after being soiled from firefighting activities.

C. Storage of Equipment

1. All protective gear shall be stored in a neat, and orderly fashion as to allow for immediate use when called for an emergency.
2. Each station has provisions to hang coats and helmets, and storage area below for boots and bunker pants. These areas are to be kept neat and orderly.
3. Gear shall be dried completely prior to storing to prevent mold, mildew and dry rot. It is extremely important not to store gear in an area where it will be in direct contact with sunlight. Ultra-violet rays damage the fibers of Nomex and PBI materials and destroy the clothing.
4. Storing protective clothing in a vehicle with window tint film is not acceptable; damaging ultra-violet rays pass through the film and will cause damage to the clothing. A cover of some type must be used in this type of storage.

D. Cleaning and Laundry Instructions

All protective clothing shall be properly cleaned and dried after use to prevent build up of contaminants. Contaminants such as carbon penetrate fibers of Nomex and PBI will decrease the flame retardant characteristics of the materials.

1. Helmets: Helmet outer shells shall be cleaned with all-purpose cleaners such as "409" to remove tar, carbon and smoke residue. The outer shell may be waxed with standard car wax to make future cleaning easier. The inner suspension system shall be cleaned with liquid detergent (Ivory) or clothes washing detergent. Helmet liner shall be thoroughly dried prior to storing.

2. Hoods and Gloves:

- a. Hoods and gloves shall be machine washed. Dry hoods and gloves in machine dryer on low heat. (**105 degrees max**) or the Hang Dry blowers
- b. Station 62 – Utilize the blower system to dry PPE

3. Coats and Pants Outer Shells:

- a. Coats and pants outer shells shall be washed by machine and dried on low heat(**105 degrees max**) or the Hang Dry blowers. The inner liner and outer shell shall be separated when laundered. Outer shells shall be turned inside out, all snaps, hooks, dies, Velcro fastened. This helps to prevent damage to fasteners and the washing equipment. Do not overstuff machine; one set of outer coat shells and inner liners may be put in the machine.
- b. Station 62 – Utilize the blower system to dry PPE

E. Laundry Detergent

PFD provided protective clothing detergent, or any commercial **nonphosphorous** detergent shall be used. One scoop (approximately 10 oz.) of commercial liquid will wash a complete load. Approximately 3 oz. of protective clothing detergent will wash a complete load. **NEVER USE BLEACH.** Bleach destroys fibers of Nomex and PBI and shall not be used.

F. Care and Cleaning of Washer and Dryer

Members are allowed to use PFD owned washing equipment but are required to maintain such equipment. Keep exterior areas clean of dirt and spilled detergent. **ALWAYS CLEAN LINT SCREEN.**