

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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Purpose: *Firefighters are provided with personal protective equipment to ensure their safety when engaged in operations at the scene of an incident.*

Procedure:

1. No firefighter will board an apparatus responding to a structure fire incident before being fully outfitted in their turnout gear.
3. PBI or Nomex hoods are to be worn on all fires, unless approved by the Incident Commander.
4. Contaminated or soiled Fire Gear SHALL not be worn after the incident. It shall be no be placed in the Cab Compartment.
5. Helmets SHALL NOT BE WORN while riding on the apparatus. They shall be secured to prevent them from becoming projectiles in the event of a crash.
6. Engineers are not required to wear any turnout gear while operating the apparatus. The apparatus officer will not be required to wear gloves or helmet while responding to an alarm. No firefighter will attempt to dress while boarding the apparatus.
7. All firefighters shall wear a *Uniform shirt* (regular or "T" shirt) when responding on an apparatus.
8. Each firefighter will be responsible for all equipment issued. Any equipment turned in when leaving the department shall be returned in good condition.
9. Each firefighter will keep his or her turnout gear reasonably clean. Any needed repairs shall be brought to the attention of the Personal Equipment Officer.
10. All turnout gear is to be kept at the firehouse unless proper permission is obtained.
11. No one shall tamper with another firefighter's turnout gear.
12. No one shall duplicate keys or badges without the permission of the fire chief.
13. Fire Gear or Contaminated uniforms shall not be permitted in the office or living areas
14. Medical gloves are to be worn whenever a member may come into contact with body fluids. Used gloves shall be placed into a Bio Hazard bag for disposal. Usually, EMS has this bag on their ambulances. Members shall ensure they receive a fresh pair of gloves following use.
15. Eye protection shall be worn whenever cutting or grinding is done. Eye protection shall also be worn whenever this is a possibility of body fluids splashing into a member's eyes.
16. All members shall be provided with one (1) pair of safety glasses. These safety glasses shall remain with the member's bunker gear when not being worn. They are to be worn as described above and at all automobile accident rescue incidents.
17. Members who are associated with specialized rescue teams shall have the appropriate personal protective equipment issued.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

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18. The chart on the attached page shows which level of firefighting personal protective equipment must be worn for a given incident.

INSPECTION:

1. A routine inspection of all PPE shall be conducted on the first Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each month prior to attending regularly scheduled training. This inspection shall be documented via record management software.
2. The Gear Inspection Log shall be maintained by the PPE officer.
3. SCBA masks shall be cleaned and logged in the provided Mask Inspection logs. Logs shall be maintained by the SCBA group.
4. A member not attending the above specified training day, shall inspected their gear their next scheduled work day.
5. Any member that does not have a gear inspection completed on the designated day shall have 1 week upon their return to have the inspection completed. If their gear isn't inspection their Shift Chief shall be notified.
6. A review of the Gear Inspection log books will be conducted by a member of the Personal Protective Equipment group or the Safety Officer or his/her designee by the 15th of each month.
7. A review of the Mask Inspection log books will be conducted by a member of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus group of the Safety Officer or his/her designee by the 15th of each month.

MAINTENANCE:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the member to ensure that his/her personal protective equipment is kept clean and free of any contaminants.
2. The on duty supervisor shall direct a member to clean his/her gear as soon as appropriate if it is deemed necessary at the time monthly inspections are conducted.
4. Contaminated PPE shall (chemicals or blood borne pathogens) will be removed at the scene, placed in a sealed (red) biohazard bag, and washed immediately upon return or replaced.
3. Whenever body fluids come into contact with a member's personal protective equipment, or clothing, they are to be laundered at the fire station as soon as possible after contact. This laundering is at fire department expense.

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4. Bunker pants and coats shall be laundered whenever they have become excessively soiled after exposure to fire products. Bunker pants and coats should be laundered every three months, even if they haven't been exposed to fire products. Exceptions to this are protective equipment that is not stored at fire stations.
5. Whenever a member's personal protective equipment requires laundering, members may use the commercial laundering equipment at the fire station. Members may ask career firefighters for instructions on operating the equipment, if they are uncertain as to how the laundering equipment operates.
6. The chart on the attached page shows which level of firefighting personal protective equipment must be worn for a given incident.

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Okolona Fire Protection District
Standard Operating Procedure

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Chart (July 8, 2021)

Nature of Incident	Apparatus:	Chief Officers:
Structure Fires, Nature unknown and Hazardous Materials Incidents (other than minor fuel spills)	Officer: Full Gear Firefighters: Full Gear Engineer: Bunker pants if 1-3/4" line has been laid (1 st Unit only) (Note 1, Note 3)	Full Gear (less SCBA, & Nomex hoods) if supply line has been laid
Vehicle, Trash, Dumpster	Officer: Full Gear Firefighters: Full Gear Engineer: Not Required	Not Required Reflective Vest in roadway
Rescues	Officer: Full Gear (less SCBA, & Nomex hoods) Firefighters: Full Gear (less SCBA, & Nomex hoods) Engineer: Not Required	Full Gear (less SCBA, & Nomex hoods) (If rescue tools are being used) Reflective Vest
Woods, Grass, Field and Tree Fires	Officer: Helmet, gloves, Bunker pants (Note 2) Firefighters: Helmet, gloves, Bunker pants (Note 2) Engineer: Not Required	Not Required
Wash offs Mitigations	Officer: Bunker Pants Firefighters: Bunker Pants Engineer: Not Required	Not Required Reflective Vest in roadway
CO detectors, Water Leaks, Lock-ins/outs, Wires Down	Officer: Not Required Firefighters: Not Required Engineer: Not Required	Not Required
EMS Runs	Officer: Duty Uniform Firefighters: Duty Uniform Engineer: Duty Uniform EMS: Duty Uniform* Reflective Vest in roadways	N/A Reflective Vest in roadways

Notes: Full gear means Helmet, Nomex hood, SCBA, bunker coat, gloves, bunker pants and boots, Wearing of personal protective equipment is optional when otherwise not required. (For example, personnel may wear bunker pants and boots on EMS runs at their discretion).

Bunker pants includes boots.

Members responding to various incidents on parking lots, roadways, or highways shall wear provided reflective vests if they are not wearing bunker pants and fire coats.

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Based upon conditions at the time of an incident's dispatch, using common sense and good judgment, the officer of an apparatus has the authority to allow his/her crew members to not wear personal protective equipment, however he or she has the responsibility to justify doing so to the Incident Commander at the earliest opportunity possible. Mere comfort is not a reasonable justification for not wearing personal protective equipment.

Note 1: The engineer may wait until arrival at the scene, and has completed the tasks of getting the apparatus set up, until he or she dons bunker pants and boots, fire coat.

Note 2: Officers and Firefighters who are wearing full length trousers that are made from fire retardant cloth or natural cloth such as cotton or wool (which includes jeans), will not be required to wear bunker pants on fires of this nature.

Officers and Firefighters who are wearing boots which are tall enough to provide ankle support will not be required to wear fire boots on fires of this nature.

Note 3: On working fires, officers and firefighters of the second, third and fourth units shall have all their personal protective equipment donned prior to arrival on the scene.

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