



**Department of Emergency Services
Fire-EMS Division
Standard Operating Procedures**

General Policies

Subject: Protective Clothing
Revised: 4-1-03
Section: 213.00

213.01 Purpose

To provide policy and guidelines relative to the proper personal protection, in the form of protective clothing, to all Fire-EMS Division members exposed to dangerous situations and hazardous atmospheres and or environments.

213.02 Policy

- A. Fire-EMS Division members shall utilize and wear protective clothing and safety gear as prescribed by those policies and procedures contained herein.
- B. Use of protective clothing as defined and prescribed within this policy shall be considered mandatory during emergency operations and/or whenever the chance of risk of personal injury to Fire-EMS members may exist.
- C. The Fire-EMS Division shall provide its members with the proper type of approved protective clothing which is currently available in the safety clothing market.
- D. All protective clothing shall be inspected semi-annually by the Captains or Lieutenants.

213.03 Responsibility

- A. Fire-EMS Officers have the overall responsibility to insure that all personnel abide by the policies regarding the use of protective clothing.
- B. All Fire-EMS Division members are directly responsible for their personal safety and shall utilize proper protective clothing as prescribed within this policy.

213.04 Definitions

All Fire-EMS personnel shall wear and utilize full protective clothing as defined herein.

Full Protective Clothing:

- A. Helmet
- B. Gloves

- C. Turnout coat
- D. Hood
- E. Turnout pants with suspenders
- F. Turnout boots
- G. SCBA face piece and bag
- H. Hearing Protection
- I. Reflective Traffic Safety Vest
- J. Eye protection as needed

213.05 General Procedures

A. Emergency Operations:

1. Personnel actively engaged in fire fighting shall wear full protective gear with SCBA. Any person without proper gear shall not enter the fire building or engage themselves in activities in the immediate area. If the officer in charge deems the fire building or adjoining buildings safe, individuals may be permitted to enter.
2. All personnel shall wear and utilize appropriate clothing during emergency operations.
3. Personnel shall not remove their protective clothing until such time as the Officer-In-Charge determines that such protection is no longer necessary or that a reduced level of protective clothing will be sufficient.
4. If, in their opinion, operating conditions warrant a change, the Officer-In-Charge may increase or decrease the level of protective clothing which is required for themselves and their personnel.
5. During multiple company operations, the Incident Commander will specify the level of protective clothing, and personnel shall not decrease that level unless they are given permission to do so by the Incident Commander or his/her designee.

B. During alarm responses:

1. Personnel responding in or on fire apparatus shall wear their protective clothing.
2. Operators are not required to wear their protective clothing while driving. After arriving on the fireground, operators must put on their protective clothing.
3. The personnel responding to alarms in enclosed vehicles, or partially enclosed apparatus, are not required to wear helmets during response but must have all their assigned protective clothing available once they reach the scene.
4. If, during a response to an alarm, an unusual condition or hazard presents itself, the Officer-In-Charge may, at his/her discretion, order all personnel, including drivers, into any level of protective clothing which may be necessary to protect said personnel from injury or death.

C. During training:

1. Personnel engaged in Fire/Rescue training sessions shall wear full protective clothing at a level required by the instructor or officer in charge.
2. Officers or personnel conducting training sessions are responsible to

insure that adequate protective clothing is utilized properly by all personnel involved. Full protective clothing shall be worn during simulated hazardous environments, or as the training shall dictate.

3. When on drivers training, the protective clothing to be worn by those participating in the exercise shall be at the discretion of the Company Officer.
- D. Routine operations:
1. Personnel involved shall use appropriate safety gear and/or protective clothing when engaged in routine activities which may present a personal safety hazard. If personnel have questions regarding the need for safety gear for such routine activities or if they wish to obtain said gear, they shall contact their immediate supervisor prior to beginning said activities.
 2. Personnel involved in fire company activities, work details, tours, and/or inspections, should have full protective clothing available should the need for it arise.
- E. Maintenance:
1. All safety gear such as goggles, breathing apparatus, etc., shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and departmental policy.
 2. All protective clothing such as turnout clothing, helmets, safety boots, work shirts, jackets, and pants shall be maintained in accordance with the manufacturers instructions and departmental policy.
 3. Protective clothing with small holes or rips are not to be considered needing replacement unless there is a considerable number of them, rendering the gear unsafe, as deemed by the Captain or Lieutenant.
 4. All protective clothing will be cleaned as necessary as determined by the Shift Lieutenant.
 5. All helmets shall conform to current Departmental issue.

213.06 Incident types

- A. Structural Responses: Full protective clothing with SCBA will be worn by all personnel expected to perform firefighting operations. Those personnel expected to perform command or support functions shall wear full protective clothing.
- B. Vehicle-Dumpster Fire: Full protective clothing with SCBA shall be worn by all personnel involved in suppression and overhaul.
- C. Brush-Exterior Fire: Full protective clothing with SCBA shall be worn by all personnel involved in suppression and overhaul.
- D. Rescues:
 1. Hazardous Atmospheres: Full protective clothing with SCBA in designated area.
 2. Non-Hazardous Atmospheres: Full protective clothing shall be worn.
- E. Motor Vehicle Accidents: Full protective clothing shall be worn.
- F. Public Service Calls: Full protective clothing shall be worn.
- G. Hazardous Materials: Full protective clothing with SCBA shall be worn.
- H. Medic Assist: Appropriate protective clothing shall be worn.

