
**Ocean City Fire Department
Standard Operating Guidelines**

General Policies

Subject: Protective Clothing and Equipment
Revised: 08-24-2022
Effective: 11-07-2022
Approved: 09-28-2022
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 members exposed to dangerous situations and hazardous atmospheres and or environments.

213.02 Policy

- A. All personnel shall utilize and wear protective clothing and safety clothing as prescribed by those guidelines 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 personnel may exist.
- C. The Fire Department shall provide all personnel with the proper type of approved protective clothing, which is currently available in the safety clothing market.
- D. All protective clothing shall be inspected at least annually by the designee of each Deputy Chief.
- E. Personal protective equipment is not permitted inside living areas of the fire stations.

213.03 Responsibility

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

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213.04 Definitions

All 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 clothing with SCBA. Any person without proper clothing shall not enter the fire building or engage themselves in activities in the immediate area. All personnel shall wear and utilize appropriate clothing during emergency operations.
 2. 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.
 3. The Incident Commander may increase or decrease the level of protective clothing which is required for themselves and their personnel.
 4. 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 assigned bunker pants and boots, or approved uniforms based on the type of call.
 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. If prior to or 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

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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 operational training sessions shall wear full protective clothing at a level required by the Lead Instructor.
 - 2. Lead Instructors and/or Officers who are 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 Lead Instructor or Officer.
- D. Routine operations:
 - 1. Personnel involved shall use appropriate safety clothing 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 clothing for such routine activities or if they need to obtain said clothing, they shall contact their immediate supervisor prior to beginning said activities.
 - 2. Personnel involved in fire company activities, work details, tours, and/or inspections, shall have full protective clothing available should the need for it arise.
- E. Maintenance:
 - 1. All safety clothing 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 is not to be considered needing replacement unless there are a considerable number of them, rendering the clothing unsafe, as deemed by an officer.
 - 4. Clean Hood Program
 - a) The program will utilize a two-hood system.
 - b) Each SCBA qualified member will receive a tan hood and a navy hood. Hoods will be rotated with navy hoods being utilized during odd months and tan hoods utilized during even months.
 - c) Career personnel will turn in their issued hood on their

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last shift of the month, while volunteer personnel will turn in their issued hood on the last day of the month. Bins are located under the attendance kiosk in each station. Once collected hoods will be sent for cleaning and inspection.

- d) If during the month of service, personnel run a working fire incident, the hoods will be collected on the fire ground and will be sent for cleaning and inspection.
5. All protective clothing will be cleaned as necessary, and members are to properly decontaminate their PPE after a fire incident.