

HIGH RISK/HIGH FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 200.03

SUBJECT: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 5-16-16

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline establishes minimum requirements and use for personal protective equipment.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

DEFINITION

1. **Hazardous Atmosphere:** Any atmosphere that is oxygen deficient (<19.5%) or that contains a toxic or disease-producing contaminant. A hazardous atmosphere might or might not be immediately dangerous to life and death.

GUIDELINE

A. Structural Firefighting Protective Equipment

1. All personnel shall be issued the following structural firefighting equipment:
 - a. One NFPA approved structural firefighting helmet with eye protection
 - b. One NFPA approved turnout coat
 - c. One pair of NFPA approved turnout pants with suspenders
 - d. One pair of NFPA approved firefighting gloves
 - e. One pair of NFPA approved firefighting turnout boots
 - f. One NFPA approved hood
 - g. One SCBA face piece with storage bag
 - h. One pair of ANSI approved safety glasses (if not integrated into helmet)

B. Wildland Firefighting Equipment

1. All personnel shall be issued the following Wildland firefighting equipment
 - a. One NFPA approved Wildland helmet
 - b. One NFPA approved pair of Wildland over pants
 - c. One NFPA approved Wildland overcoat
 - d. One NFPA approved pair of Wildland gloves
 - e. One NFPA approved Wildland goggles
 - f. One pair of approved boots for Wildland firefighting
 - g. One NFPA approved hood
 - h. One Hot Shield HS-2 Wildland Mask

C. Specific Personal Protective Equipment Use

1. Structural firefighting equipment shall be worn on incident calls unless specified in the following paragraphs.
2. Structural firefighting equipment shall be worn with SCBA when a hazardous atmosphere is present or potentially present. See Guideline 200.02 SCBA Program.
 - a. The protective hood may be omitted if SCBA is not worn or not anticipated to be worn
3. Structural firefighting equipment shall be worn with caution near open water incident calls.

- a. An approved Personal Flotation Device shall be worn and securely fastened.
 - b. The Incident Commander may allow the wearing of structural firefighting equipment with a PFD worn and securely fastened on ice rescue/cold water incidents as long as a risk assessment is completed as to where the personnel will be located in relation to the hazard area.
4. Wildland firefighting equipment or structural firefighter equipment may be worn on the following incidents:
- a. Brush, grass or woods fires
 - b. Special rescue calls including, but not limited to:
 1. Trench rescue incidents
 2. Confined space incidents
 3. High angle or carry out incidents
 4. Special calls as determined by the Fire Chief or next highest ranking officer
 5. The Wildland overcoat can be omitted on incident calls where it is not necessary and where weather conditions dictate. Example: High angle rescues or carry outs.
 - c. Wildland equipment is not to be worn for structural firefighting.
 1. With the exception of the first due Brush Fire apparatus on a Wildland fire call; all other responding personnel shall take their structural equipment with them on assigned apparatus.

D. Protective Equipment Maintenance and Cleaning

1. Each member is responsible for taking care of their assigned personal protective equipment.
2. All maintenance issues or defects shall be immediately reported for appropriate repair.
3. All personal protective equipment will be inspected each year by using separate sheet developed for such activity.
4. All personal protective equipment shall be washed when soiled with by-products of combustion, human bodily fluids, other material or annually.
 - a. Equipment contaminated with a known or unknown hazardous material shall be sent in for specific cleaning by an authorized equipment cleaning facility.
 1. If necessary, this personal protective equipment shall be immediately isolated at the scene of the incident
 - b. The personal protective equipment shall be rinsed of contamination as much as possible at the incident scene.
 - c. Upon returning to the station the personal protective equipment shall be cleaned in the washer/extractor, as follows:
 1. The outer shell of the turnout coat and pants shall be washed together separate of the inner liner.
 2. Gloves should be washed with the outer shell.
 3. Protective hoods should be washed with inner liners.
 - d. Boots shall be thoroughly cleaned removing any remaining contaminants
 - e. Helmets shall be cleaned to remove any remaining contaminants using non abrasive soap.
 - f. All personal protective equipment should be hung on rack to air dry.
 - g. A second set of personal protective equipment should be placed into service while waiting for primary set to dry.
5. All personal protective equipment shall be stored neatly in the locker assigned.

E. Personal Protective Equipment Additions/Modifications

1. No modifications shall be made to any personal protective equipment unless authorized by the Fire Chief
2. The following modifications will be duly authorized by this guideline:
 - a. Attachments to the helmet that assist the firefighter in the duties of emergency operations
 1. Helmet lights
 2. Bands that hold items such as door chocks.
3. Any additional specialized gear worn over or under personal protective gear shall be first approved by the Fire Chief.
4. Considerations of this gear should be, but not limited to:
 - a. Training with the specific equipment
 - b. Appropriate classification and rating for its use

F. Eye Protection

1. SCBA mask provides necessary eye protection when used in conjunction with the remaining respiratory protection.
2. All personnel will be issued ANSI Z87.1+ approved eye safety glasses – primary eye protection
3. Primary eye protection is integrated into **fire helmet model** structural fire helmet or wildland goggles.
 - a. If integrated eye protection is not used or does not fit over prescriptions glasses, approved safety glasses must still be utilized
4. Proper eye protection shall be used during any activity which may cause injury to the eyes including, but not limited to:
 - a. Checking under fire apparatus for any reason
 - b. Using hammers, axe or forcible entry tools
 - c. During overhaul in personal protective equipment when the SCBA face piece is not required
 - d. Checking or using hydraulic equipment
 - e. Personnel in contact with patients from medical calls or vehicle crashes
5. It is good practice to wear clear safety glasses when dealing with patients. It provides a sense of trust and comfort when people can see the eyes of their rescuers.

G. Miscellaneous

1. Medical examination gloves shall be worn under personal protective equipment when there is potential to come in contact with bodily fluids
2. The department issues different firefighter survival tools to be carried in personnel protective equipment.
 - a. This equipment shall be cared for and any maintenance issues reported.
 - b. Personnel may carry their own items as long it does not interfere with the personal protective equipment.
3. Any use of personal protective equipment not specifically addressed above shall require authorization of the Fire Chief.
4. Follow St. Croix EMS PPE policy for all medical incidents.

References – Risk and frequency classification information - <http://firefighterclosecalls.com/sopsog.php>