

Occupational Safety and Health, SOG 240
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

1. Scope. This standard applies to all members required to work in hazardous environments. It was promulgated to establish guidelines for the use of protective clothing and equipment to reduce the risk of illness, injury, or death that might result from a member's exposure to a hazardous environment.
2. General.
 - A. Each member shall wear protective clothing and use equipment appropriate for the hazards to which he is exposed.
 - B. Each member shall properly maintain the protective clothing and equipment that has been issued to him and that are carried on the apparatus to which he has been assigned.
 - C. Each member shall clean his structural protective clothing at least once every six months and every time it is contaminated.
 - D. Any equipment or protective clothing that is found to be unsafe or inoperable shall be red-tagged, removed from service immediately, and forwarded to the appropriate officer for repair.
3. Structural Firefighting.
 - A. Each member assigned to fight structure fires shall be issued protective clothing and equipment that comply with all applicable NFPA standards and local requirements. These items shall include:
 - (1) Helmet (NFPA 1972).
 - (2) Boots (NFPA 1974).
 - (3) Gloves (NFPA 1973).
 - (4) Coat (NFPA 1971).
 - (5) Pants with suspenders (NFPA 1971).
 - (6) SCBA facepiece (NFPA 1981).

(7) Hood (NFPA 1971).

- B. No alterations shall be made to protective clothing without the approval of the fire chief.
- C. Each member operating within a perimeter designated as hazardous by the incident safety officer shall wear his full protective clothing in the prescribed manner. The incident safety officer shall determine when and if it is safe to remove some or all of the clothing.
- D. Members shall be fully clothed beneath their turnouts (wearing the appropriate work uniform).
- E. To assist members with identifying rank at an incident scene, helmets are color-coded as follows:
 - (1) White: chief officers.
 - (2) Red: captains.
 - (3) Yellow: lieutenants.
 - (4) Black: firefighters

4. SCBA.

- A. All self-contained breathing apparatus used by the department shall comply with NFPA 1081.
- B. Unless the safety of the atmosphere can be determined by testing and continuous monitoring, all personnel shall use SCBA while working in areas where:
 - (1) The atmosphere is hazardous.
 - (2) The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
 - (3) The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.
- C. Members wearing SCBA shall always work in teams of at least two members each.

- D. SCBA and spare cylinders shall be kept on each apparatus and be available for immediate use.
 - E. SCBA shall not be removed until the incident commander or safety officer has determined by testing that the atmosphere is no longer hazardous and that CO levels are less than 50 ppm.
 - F. A personal alert safety system ("PASS") device that complies with NFPA 1982 shall be assigned to each SCBA and shall be activated whenever the SCBA is in use.
5. Wildland Firefighting.
- A. Protective clothing and equipment that meet NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting, shall be provided for use by each member assigned to a brush company. This includes coveralls or pants and shirts, gloves, footwear, helmets, and eye protection.
 - B. Wildland gear shall be worn in lieu of structural protective clothing when fighting grass and brush fires whenever it is available.
 - C. If wildland gear is unavailable, the incident safety officer shall determine the level of protection that is required. At minimum, protection shall include Nomex pants and shirt, gloves, helmet, eye protection, and footwear that meets NFPA 1974 or NFPA 1977.
6. Life Safety Ropes, Harnesses, and Hardware.
- A. All life safety ropes, harnesses, and hardware used by the department shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1983, Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope and System Components.
 - B. Class I life safety harnesses shall only be used for firefighter attachment to ladders and aerial devices.
 - C. Class II and Class III life safety harnesses shall be used for fall, arrest and rappelling operations.
 - D. Rope used to support the weight of members or other persons during rescue, firefighting, other emergency operations, or training evolutions

shall be life safety rope. Life safety rope used for any other purpose shall be removed from service and destroyed.

- E. Life safety rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents or for training shall be inspected before and after each use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and may be reused provided it has not sustained any visual damage due to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure, or abrasion.
 - F. Life safety rope shall be removed from service and destroyed if the rope has been subjected to an impact load or exposure to a chemical known to deteriorate rope.
7. Other Protective Clothing and Equipment.
- A. Emergency medical incidents: See SOG 240 - Protective Clothing.
 - B. Water rescues: See SOG 265 - Water Rescue.
8. Responsibilities.
- A. Each member shall inspect protective clothing and equipment issued to him. Each member is responsible for the cleaning, care, and maintenance of his clothing and equipment and for obtaining repairs or replacement items.
 - B. Officers shall inspect protective clothing and equipment issued to the members to ensure that all items are being properly maintained and are functioning properly.
 - C. The incident safety officer shall be responsible for ensuring that all members operating within the hazardous perimeter of an incident are properly attired and using the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. Any member who is in violation of this procedure shall be ordered to promptly leave the hazardous area.
 - D. A member who uses a life safety rope shall have the rope inspected by an officer before the rope can be returned to service.
 - E. The officers shall maintain a record of all rope use and shall remove from service all unsafe rope.