

Hurricane Fire Rescue

Hurricane, WV

Operation Guidelines

Subject	Personal Protective Equipment
Guideline Number	800.602
Adopted	March 1, 2007
Effective Date	April 7, 2007
Pages	3

Purpose: It is the intent of this guideline that no member will cause a delay in any firefighting operation by not being fully prepared to engage in firefighting activities in a safe manner.

Scope: For the **safety** and **welfare** of Hurricane Fire & Rescue personnel, the following policy concerning the wearing of protective clothing will be in effect for all firefighting personnel.

Responsibility: All firefighting personnel

Definition

Full protective clothing: Helmet with face shield or goggles, hood, turnout coat, boots with turnout pants, gloves.

- A. **Full protective clothing** will be worn by firefighting personnel while responding to all fire alarms and while working at all fire incidents that may require the use of an SCBA.

Exceptions: Those individuals sitting in jump seats with back protection will not be required to wear helmets while seated.

Drivers of fire apparatus are not required to wear turnout gear while responding to alarms. However, after arrival at the scene and conditions warrant, drivers will don the turnout with SCBA to function as part of the initial rapid intervention team.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING USE

- B. While operating at EMS incidents, members will wear necessary body substance isolation.
- C. When operating forcible entry equipment and tools, **full protective clothing** will be worn. Wild land PPE may be used on vehicle accidents or technical rescues that have no thermal hazards.

- D. Helmets will be worn when operating near moving vehicles, such as EMS incidents in the street.
- E. Command may use discretion to regulate the use of **protective clothing** in those situations where exceptions to the above policy appear necessary. Such as the use of protective clothing may compromise patient care when operating in close quarters.
- F. A nomex hood will be worn when engaged in firefighting and any other situation where injuries to head and face from heat are likely to occur. The hood is to be worn over SCBA straps and situated to cover all skin areas not covered by SCBA face piece.

The hood will be worn over the masks. This will allow the breathing mask to seal against your face and protect the mask straps from flame and intense heat.

The hoods will be donned as follows:

- I. Pull hood over your head so it is around your neck.
 - 2. Put on breathing mask and adjust straps.
 - 3. Pull hood up and over back of head, covering mask straps and seal around face piece. Put on helmet.
 - 4. Refrain from mounting the mask over the hood
- G. The use of turnout coats and hoods during overhaul operations will be at the discretion of the incident commander and Safety Officer. No portion of the protective clothing will be removed without permission of the officer in charge.
 - H. The face shield or goggles will be utilized at any time the need for eye protection seems apparent, such as, during overhaul, when operating hand or power tools, and when fighting grass and brush fires, and any other fires where the S.C.B.A. face piece is not being worn.
 - I. Gloves will be worn when engaged in firefighting, overhaul, training or working with hose and ladders, when using hand or power tools, and any other situation where injuries to the hand are likely to occur. Standard issued work gloves may be used when there is no exposure to heat involved.
 - J. In specific situations for which no guidelines have been provided, the proper protective clothing to protect against all foreseeable hazards will be worn.

Fluorescent Retro-Reflective Garments/Vests

When operating in proximity of vehicle traffic, personnel are required to wear fluorescent retro-reflective garments or vests. This requirement can be met in one of three ways or a combination of:

1. Helmet, bunker pants and bunker coat
2. Incident command vests
3. Fire rescue vest

In order to increase our margin of safety all personnel, including the apparatus drivers, will meet this requirement when in or near traffic or other hazardous areas.

Officers will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this standard.

These vests do not replace the requirement for bunker gear, when a potential fire or hazardous situation exists.

Should a vest become heavily soiled or contaminated with blood or other body fluids, follow procedures outlined in the Exposure Control Plan.