



STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish the procedures for the inspection, cleaning, and maintenance of structural firefighting gear by members of Stoney Point Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS

Carcinogen – any substance that causes cancer by interfering with the DNA master system of cell control

Clean - make free of dirt, marks, or mess, especially by washing, wiping, or brushing

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Inspect - process by which something is checked to ensure operability and meets all requirements

Label – any written, printed, or graphic material displayed on or affixed

Maintenance - process of keeping something in good condition to ensure operability

to containers of hazardous chemicals

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Personal Protective Equipment – (PPE) gear worn by personnel to protect them from hazards (medical PPE, structural PPE, rescue PPE) can include gloves, masks, and garments

Repair – restore or replacing a part or putting together what is broken

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department members rely upon their structural firefighting personal protective equipment to protect them from the hazards that they face while responding to emergency incidents. This gear is designed to protect the wearer from heat, smoke, gases, and physical hazards such as falling debris and sharp objects. It is imperative that this personal protective equipment be inspected to identify defects, cleaned to prevent the spread of carcinogens, and maintained to prolong the service life of the gear.

Policy Number

6A.006

Page 1 of 4



Inspection of Structural Firefighting Gear

Individual Firefighters are responsible for the inspection of their assigned structural firefighting gear prior to reporting for duty each shift. This inspection is conducted to determine the serviceability and cleanliness of the gear to prevent hazards to the wearer and to fellow Firefighters. This inspection should include but not be limited to:

- General cleanliness
 - excessively soiled with dirt, ash, liquids, or bodily fluids
 - off gassing of carcinogens, heavy odor of smoke
- Serviceability
 - damage to, or missing components from helmet
 - rips or tears in the external protective layer
 - thermal damage or discoloration
 - shrinkage of hoods and gloves
 - broken or missing closures or fasteners
 - holes in boots, gloves, or hood
 - damage to, or missing thermal protective layer

Upon completion of the inspection, the Firefighter shall report any issues to their Company Officer and the Protective Equipment Officer. The Firefighter shall not engage in interior structural firefighting in unserviceable personal protective equipment.

Daily Maintenance

Stoney Point Fire Department members are responsible for the daily preventative maintenance of their assigned structural firefighting gear. This daily maintenance includes but is not limited to:

- Gross cleaning and decontamination following use of gear
 - rinse off exterior of gear with a hose prior to removal
 - detailed cleaning of specific hazards
- Proper wear and use to minimize unnecessary wear damage
- Proper storage, out of direct sunlight, to prevent unnecessary wear and damage
- Request repair or replacement of items as necessary

Policy Number
6A.006
Page 2 of 4



Cleaning Instructions

Firefighters shall ensure that their structural firefighting gear is routinely cleaned in a detailed fashion to prolong the service life of the gear and prevent the spread of carcinogens and other hazards. It is important to follow the manufacturer's instructions while conducting this detailed cleaning. The Protective Equipment Officer and the career staff shall be responsible for ensuring that all structural firefighting gear is cleaned in accordance with these instructions. Individual Firefighters shall assist the Protective Equipment Officer and staff with this cleaning. The following instructions shall be followed when cleaning structural firefighting gear:

- Turn Out Coat and Turn Out Pants
 - remove the thermal/moisture protective barrier from outer protective shell
 - fasten all hooks, zippers, and Velcro fasteners
 - turn coat or pants inside out
 - load protective shell coat and pants into front load washer and wash on appropriate setting with approved detergent
 - load thermal protective barrier coat and pants into front load washer and wash on appropriate setting with approved detergent
 - dry coat and pants by hanging in a cross ventilated area out of direct sunlight, thermal barrier should remain inside out to dry faster
- Protective Hoods
 - washed inside out with the thermal barrier of the Turn Outs
 - dried inside out with other gear in a cross ventilated area out of direct sunlight
- Structural Firefighting Gloves
 - washed separately, or with other gloves, never with other Turn Out gear
 - dried with other gear in a cross ventilated area out of direct sunlight
- Structural Firefighting Boots
 - cleaned with a brush and mild detergent, dried with other gear
- Structural Firefighting Helmet
 - cleaned with a brush and mild detergent, dried with other gear

Policy Number
6A.006
Page 3 of 4



Structural Firefighting Gear Cleaning

Structural firefighting gear shall be thoroughly cleaned as described every 8 weeks at a minimum. Gear shall be cleaned following involvement in structural firefighting, rescue operations, training, or medical incidents where the gear became soiled or contaminated. Structural firefighting gear that is heavily contaminated with hydrocarbons shall be sent to a professional cleaner that specializes in cleaning firefighter protective gear.

Never use Chlorine bleach on any structural firefighting gear as bleach destroys the fabric, reducing the effectiveness of the protective gear. Structural firefighting gear shall never be placed in the dryers at either Station to prevent cross contamination with other clothing items.

Cross Contamination Prevention

Wash structural firefighting gear prior to washing other station gear, towels, sheets, etc. Following the washing of structural firefighting gear run a dummy cycle of rags with hot water and detergent to clear out any remaining contaminants prior to washing other items.

Protective Equipment Soiled with Bodily Fluids

Stoney Point Fire Department members routinely provide emergency medical treatment on medical and rescue incidents. The possibility that structural or other protective gear will become soiled by bodily fluids exists. The following procedures shall be enacted for gear contaminated with bodily fluids:

- Handle all contaminated gear with medical gloves, eye protection and gowns
- Spray contaminated gear with LYSOL disinfectant
- Dispose of contaminated leather gloves in accordance with Biohazard protocols
- Wash Turn Out Coats, Pants, and Hoods as previously described
- Wash Helmets and Boots as previously described

References

NFPA 1851

NFPA 1971

Firefighter turnout gear: Proper care and maintenance (FireRescue1)

Policy Number

6A.006

Page 4 of 4