



Scarborough Fire Department

Scarborough, Maine



Standard Operating Procedures

Book:	Organization
Chapter:	Personnel, Policies & Procedures
Subject:	1342 - Personal Protective Equipment
Revision Date:	11/21/2006 [revised 10/23/18]
Approved by:	<i>B. Michael Thurlow</i>

PURPOSE

To establish a policy for the use and care of personal protective equipment to protect Scarborough Fire Department members from injury when participating in fire department activities.

POLICY

Fire department members shall wear personal protective equipment during emergency operations or whenever there is risk of personal injury. Members shall not wear PPE in station living quarters.

REQUIREMENTS

- A. All personal protective equipment must meet or exceed current NFPA standards when purchased
- B. Only personal protective equipment issued or approved by the Scarborough Fire Department shall be worn.
- C. All issued personal protective equipment is the property of the Town of Scarborough and must be returned to the Fire Chief upon leaving employment.
- D. All personal protective equipment shall be inspected and logged yearly.
- E. Personal protective equipment lost, stolen or damaged due to negligent care may be replaced at the member's expense.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Fire Department Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consists of:
 - a. Helmet
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Turnout coat
 - d. Turnout pants (with suspenders)
 - e. Turnout boots - short (night) boots
 - f. Nomex Hood
 - g. Accountability tag
 - h. Ballistic vest (not issued to all personnel)
 - i. Goggles or approved eye protection

PROCEDURES

- A. Emergency Operations
 - a. All personnel shall wear and utilize appropriate PPE during emergency operations including motor vehicle accidents.
 - b. No personnel without proper gear shall enter the fire building or engage in firefighting activities.
 - c. Members shall not remove personal protective equipment until the officer-in-charge determines that such protection is no longer necessary or that a reduced level of personal protective equipment will be sufficient for the task at hand.
 - d. Ballistic PPE shall be used according to SOP 1343.
- B. During alarm response
 - a. Members responding on fire apparatus shall wear PPE, except helmet.
 - b. Operators are not required to wear their protective clothing while driving.
 - c. An Officer may order all personnel, including drivers, into any level of PPE necessary to protect personnel from injury or death.
- C. During training
 - a. Members engaged in training sessions shall wear PPE.
 - b. Officers or members conducting training sessions are responsible to insure that adequate PPE is utilized by all personnel involved. Full PPE shall be worn during simulated hazardous environments.
 - c. When driver training, the protective clothing to be worn by those participating in the exercise shall be at the discretion of the trainer.
- D. Routine operations
 - a. Members shall use appropriate gear and PPE when engaged in routine activities which may present a personal safety hazard. If members have questions regarding the need for safety gear at a routine activity, or they wish to obtain specific gear, they shall contact their immediate supervisor prior to beginning the activity.
 - b. Members involved in fire inspections, pre-planning activities or tours shall wear proper and adequate protective clothing during those activities and shall have full PPE available should the need for it arise.
 - c. When working around a charged hose, all members should wear full PPE including a helmet.
- E. Maintenance and Cleaning
 - a. All PPE shall be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and as outlined below:
 - i. Protective Gear must be washed separately from other garments. The gear washing equipment is located at the Dunstan station.
 - ii. Spots may be pretreated prior to washing with liquid detergent.
 - iii. Turn garment inside out and fasten all hooks.
 - iv. Do not overload, wash 1 coat and 1 pant, or 2 pants, or 2 coats at a time.
 - v. Use the departmental provided detergent as directed on container.
 - vi. Make sure the machine is set for double rinse and hot water.
 - vii. Hang gear on hangers out of direct sunlight to dry.
 - viii. **Do not** use bleach containing chlorine.
 - ix. **Do not** dry clean.
 - x. **Do not** use fabric softeners.
 - xi. **Do not** use powder soap cleaners.
 - xii. **Do not** hang to dry in sunlight.

- b. All PPE shall be cleaned a minimum of once annually.
 - c. When possible, all contaminated gear will be gross decontaminated before leaving the scene of a working incident.
 - d. PPE must be cleaned as soon as practical following:
 - i. Entry into "warm" or "hot" HazMat zone.
 - ii. After auto accidents when gasoline, oil, anti-freeze, or other contaminants come in contact with protective clothing.
 - iii. After EMS calls when protective clothing has come in contact with blood, bodily fluids or other contaminants.
 - iv. After any fire, drill, or other situation in which the equipment has come in contact with any smoke, heat, flame, etc.
 - v. Other situations which may include after heavy use such as training where the gear became wet or the liners need to be deodorized.
 - e. Care and cleaning of ballistic PPE shall be according to SOP 1343.
- F. Contaminated PPE or PPE requiring repairs
- a. Any PPE that is contaminated shall be placed out of service until it can be properly cleaned and decontaminated.
 - b. Any rips, tears, holes or non-functional parts of bunker gear, jackets or pants, hoods, gloves, helmets, or boots shall be corrected as soon as possible.
 - c. After being cleaned by the departmental member, the item will be identified and given to the immediate supervisor to be repaired.
 - d. Members with contaminated PPE or PPE requiring repair shall notify their immediate supervisor who will assist them obtaining spare PPE until their assigned PPE is back in service.

RESPONSIBILITY

All Scarborough Fire Department personnel are responsible for their own personal safety and the proper maintenance and cleaning of their assigned PPE.

REFERENCES

- A. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132–1910.140, Personal Protection Equipment
- B. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.130, Occupational Exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens
- C. NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- D. ANSI Z87.1 Eye Protection Standard