



TURNOUT GEAR MAINTENANCE

Scope

This guideline will assist in maintaining the safest working environment for the personnel of the Stoney Point Fire Department.

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to layout the proper way to keep protective clothing clean as possible from carcinogens caused by toxic gases, smoke and other hazardous materials and to keep protective clothing clean from blood borne pathogens as a result of Emergency Medical Responses.

Definitions

CARCINOGENS – A substance that causes cancer by interfering with the DNA master system of cell control.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (turnout gear) – Clothing designed to protect a person while entering a hazardous environment. **Coat, pants, hood, boots, gloves and helmet shall pertain to this guideline.**

DAILY CARE

- Keep turnout gear stored in a place where gear is not in direct sunlight.
- Keep turnout gear out of contact with exhaust fumes such as diesel and gasoline.
- Keep protective clothing as clean as possible.

Care Instructions

COAT & PANTS – Remove thermal/moisture barrier from outer shell. All hooks, d-rings, zippers, and velcro should be fastened and turned inside out. Set washer on proper cycle (30). Load the outer shell into a front loading washing machine (outer shell and inner lining must be washed separately to avoid cross contamination). The load must not exceed one (1) coat and one (1) pant (outer shell) or one (1) coat liner and one (1) pant's liner (inner liner). Wash the inner liners first, then the outer shells using a front loading washing machine.

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SOAPS & DETERGENTS – Make sure that all necessary containers of soaps & detergents needed for washing are available. Only use soaps approved by protective clothing manufacturer (mild detergent).

HOODS – Shall be washed with the inner liner.

GLOVES – Shall be washed alone, or with other gloves, but never with the outer shell, inner liner, or hoods.

BOOTS – Shall be washed using a cleaning brush or towel and mild detergent.

HELMET – Shall be washed in a mild detergent, using a brush or towel to remove dirt and smoke stain.

NO CHLORINE BLEACH SHALL BE USED ON FIREFIGHTER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING – CHLORINE BLEACH DESTROYS THE FABRIC!

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Drying instructions for outer shell, inner liner and gloves are as follows:

- These items shall be dried in an area where cross ventilation can be used. Place these items where no direct sunlight can contact them.
- When drying the inner liner, turn it inside out, where the quilted liner faces out. You will find it will dry quicker.

DO NOT USE THE DRYERS WE USE TO DRY OUT SHEETS, TOWELS, AND STATION WEAR!

FINAL STEP – It is a good idea to wash all protective clothing before station wear, sheets, and towels. Before starting regular washing of sheets, towels, and station wear, run a cycle of hot water, detergent, and dummy rags to wash out any contaminates the turn-out gear may have left behind. Rinsing the system must be done at least once, but preferably several times.



Protective clothing described in this guideline shall be cleaned **every eight weeks**, or after the garment has been involved in firefighting, rescue or training and is soiled to a point where there is obvious dirt and grime accumulation.

Any protective clothing soiled with heavy hydrocarbons shall be sent to a professional cleaner that cleans firefighter protective clothing.

All protective clothing shall be worn in the most efficient and professional manner. Suspenders shall hold the pant high enough so it is comfortable to the wearer and the cuffs are not stepped on or dragged when walking.

Cleaning Protective Clothing When Splattered With Blood

While working with EMS, there is always the possibility of coming in contact with blood and body fluids. Sometimes the provider can be soaked or splattered with blood or body fluids. The following is guideline for those personnel splattered with blood or body fluids.

Handle the contaminated clothing with the latex gloves, eye protection, and gowns that are provided for EMS calls.

USE LYSOL BRAND DISINFECTANT TRIGGER SPRAY. Spray protective clothing until the contaminated spot is saturated with Lysol Disinfectant.

Separate outer shell and inner liner and wash & dry as specified in the washing and drying instructions.

Gloves – leather gloves that become contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be disposed of as a Bio-Hazard.

Environmental protection agency approves **Lysol brand disinfectant cleaners** to kill human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In this guideline we will be using Lysol brand disinfectant trigger spray.

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In no way will this guideline prevent a firefighter from getting cancer or becoming ill due to the effects of firefighting. This guideline is only designed to help keep the men and women of the Stoney Point Fire Department as healthy as possible.

General Rules for Protective Clothing

Protective clothing can be used for fire related schools when classes specify that protective clothing is needed.

Protective clothing team members shall be able to inspect protective clothing anytime to insure the gear meets the needed requirements set forth by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Each member of the Stoney Point Fire Department shall in every way be responsible for maintaining their turnout gear at a high state of readiness. If a member finds their gear is in need of repair and/or replacement they shall notify the Shift Leader and report the deficiencies on a maintenance request form in writing.

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