

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

SCBA FACE PIECE CLEANING

SCBA HARNESS CLEANING

SCBA CASCADE SYSTEM

TURN-OUT GEAR, FIREFIGHTING AND OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT POLICY

I. DEPARTMENT ISSUED TURN OUT GEAR AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

A. Turn-Out Gear:

Helmet, hood, bunker jacket, suspenders, bunker pants, gloves, boots

B. Other Issued Equipment

Pager, pager charger, pocket spanner, portable radio and portable radio charger for officers, rope, key fob

C. Miscellaneous Items (including clothing)

Golf shirt/ T-shirt

Uniform: hat, badges, shirt, pants, etc.

II. DATE OF ISSUANCE

The equipment set forth in Section I of this policy shall be issued to a firefighter upon his or her appointment to the District. The equipment issued to newly appointed members may be used equipment (the issuance of used or “hand down” equipment to new member is preferred), but all issued equipment must be serviceable and must meet applicable NFPA requirements.

III. OWNERSHIP

All firefighting gear and equipment shall remain as property of the Fire District. All members are expected to maintain the firefighting gear and equipment in good condition and shall be responsible for returning the firefighting gear and equipment, in good condition, to the District upon his or her separation or departure from the District.

IV. USE

All turn-out gear and other equipment issued pursuant to this policy must be used properly.

Only Approved Protective Equipment

All firefighters, while on duty at a fire or emergency, shall wear the appropriate protective equipment as designated by the Fire Chief. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent an employee from providing a particular piece of protective equipment at his own expense, for his own use, with the approval of the Fire Chief.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment

All personnel shall use the following as minimum requirements for the proper use of protective clothing and equipment. For situations not specifically identified in this procedure, the Officer in Charge shall determine the appropriate level of protection for his personnel. Full bunker gear is

defined as boots, pants, coat, gloves and helmet. Any time SCBA is used, a Nomex or similar protective hood shall also be worn. The hood shall be worn when engaged in firefighting and any other situation where injuries to the head and face are likely to occur. Personnel shall take the necessary time to don protective clothing before engaging in activities regardless of the situation. Except under extenuating circumstances, personnel shall be dressed in required clothing prior to scene arrival. Apparatus drivers (engine and ladder) are exempt from these requirements as long as their assignments do not vary from routine apparatus duties. However, they must always wear helmets and have their protective clothing set out by their work area next to the unit.

The following incidents may require full bunker gear to be worn:

Structure fires and *automatic fire alarms, smoke checks in area*, smoke checks in structure, vehicle and dumpster or trash fires, grass or brush fires, fuel spills, wires down, electrical arcing, overheated appliances, etc., gas leaks or investigate possible hazardous materials, personnel performing extrication, heavy rescue, using forcible entry tools, and landing zone or other incidents requiring full protective clothing for personal protection, whether an actual or a potential hazard exists.

The following incidents require a modification to full bunker gear:

- Confined space and below grade rescue: Boots, pants, helmet and SCBA
- Vertical rescue: Helmets and gloves
- Medical emergencies or vehicle accidents: Use your personal protective equipment as needed
- Overhaul and salvage: Boots, pants, gloves and helmets. SCBA until thoroughly ventilated.
- Face shields or goggles shall be utilized at any time the need for eye protection seems apparent, such as during overhaul, operating hand or power tools, or when fighting trash fires, grass fires or other fires where the SCBA face piece is not being worn.
- Gloves and helmets shall be worn when engaged in firefighting, overhaul, training with hose and ladders, when using hand or power tools and any other situation where injuries to the hand or head are likely to occur.
- A helmet is required of all personnel in the immediate fireground. Until the fire is declared out and the structure is thoroughly ventilated, no personnel shall get closer than 25 feet to any portion of the structure without full protective clothing. Any personnel using ladders, charged lines, or extrication tools at any time shall wear a minimum of gloves and helmets.

Command:

Incident Command personnel shall have no specific requirements as long as they are functioning in a Command Post. Sector officers shall wear full bunker gear.

Firefighting personnel, while responding to all structural fire alarms, shall wear full protective clothing. (Optional for drivers and command personnel.)

The Officer in Charge may use his discretion to regulate the “suit-up” criteria in terms of unusual circumstances such as extremely long responses, out of quarter’s responses, or when the vehicle

is moving at time they were dispatched. At no time will employees be permitted to “suit up” without being secured by a seatbelt while in a moving vehicle.

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

V. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING BUNKER GEAR

Helmets

Chief and Assistant Chief - White

Captain and Lieutenant – Red

Firefighters with 84Hrs. of training or above – Black

Probationary – Yellow

EMS/Cadets- Blue

All helmets are to have decals, lettering or shields as approved by the Fire Chief.

Shield Design - WRJFD (WRJFD over Rank)(Rank = Firefighter, Lt., Capt., Ass’t Chief, Chief) Rank, and Firefighter number

Coats

Chief and Assistant Chief - White

Captain, Lieutenant and Firefighter - Black

Coats are to be lettered with “WRJFD” and Personnel name.

All pants are to be black in color.

Coats and pants may have a radio pocket and/or bellows pockets.

The District, as needed, shall furnish protective gear and shall include the following: bunker pants, fire coat, suspenders, boots, gloves, hood, and helmet. Firefighting personnel shall only wear personal protective clothing issued or approved by the Fire Chief.

VI. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING INSPECTION PROGRAM

The purpose of this procedure is to establish a system to regularly inspect protective clothing and equipment in all stations and to set standards for the maintenance of these items.

This inspection is intended to assure that all personnel are provided with a complete set of protective equipment, maintained in a safe and functional condition.

During uniform inspections, the quartermaster, a station officer and an assistant chief (where applicable) will use the following inspection criteria to evaluate the condition of protective clothing. Each item will be rated in one of our categories. OK, CLEAN, REPAIR, or REPLACE.

Protective clothing to be inspected includes: Helmet with face shield, bunker coat, boots, bunker pants, gloves and hood.

The quartermaster in association with a chief officer and/or safety officer is responsible for performing and managing protective clothing inspections and shall monitor adherence to requirements.

Inspections shall be conducted annually and the inspecting officer and quartermaster shall verify proper fit of bunker coats and pants when conducting inspections.

Each member of the Fire District is responsible for the cleaning, care and maintenance of all issued protective equipment. The individual member is responsible for obtaining repairs or replacement items from the quartermaster when needed.

Protective clothing inspection reports will be filled out for each scheduled inspection. The completed form will then be signed by the Officer conducting the inspection and the quartermaster and kept on file at Station 91.

The inspection officer will determine the time allowable for correction of any deficiency and the protective equipment needing replacement will be exchanged at the earliest opportunity. Any items lost, stolen or damaged shall be reported in writing to the Fire Chief.

All protective equipment shall be of a type and kind which is issued by the Western Reserve Joint Fire District. Items shall not be worn that have not been issued by the Fire District unless the Fire Chief grants permission. All personal protective equipment shall be returned when the firefighter terminates employment.

Helmets

Helmets shall be maintained reasonably clean and the face shield, chinstrap and suspension shall be in good condition.

Cleaning:

1. Helmets should be cleaned with hot water and a mild detergent or approved cleaner. All manufacturers' instructions should be followed.
2. The following is a list of additional cleaning materials which can be used to remove stubborn dirt and smoke stains:
 - a) Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
 - b) Windex (regular, not ammoniated)
 - c) Dishwashing detergent
 - d) Jeweler's polish for face shield scratches
3. The use of other materials such as strong (industrial strength) detergents, solvents, petroleum products, etc., will damage the shell and face shield.

Repair:

1. Missing nuts on face shield adapters

2. Face shield excessively scratched
3. Chin strap and assembly broken or torn
4. Helmet liner worn, shredded, split or cracked
5. Webbed suspension broken
6. Proper personnel name or insignia missing or wrong

Replaced:

1. Split face shield or other eye protection
2. Helmet with visible cracks
3. Helmet that is warped from exposure to heat
4. Helmet that has been exposed to mist or fumes which are known to weaken polycarbon

NOTE: All items constructed from thermoplastics are susceptible to ultraviolet and chemical degradation. When the helmet loses its surface gloss and the surface begins to flake away, chemical degradation has occurred. During inspections, helmets will be checked for these conditions and the shell will be replaced immediately if they are evident.

Hoods

Cleaning: Use warm water and mild detergent. (See manufacturer's recommendation.)

Replace:

1. Holes in hood
2. Hoods which are not Western Reserve Joint Fire District approved
3. Hoods severely stretched out of shape

Gloves

Cleaning: Use warm water and mild detergent

Replace:

1. Stitching worn or rotten
2. Glove insulation is worn through
3. Leather split
4. Holes in glove
5. Gloves are not Western Reserve Joint Fire District approved

Turn-Out Coat and Pants

Firefighters are required to wear coats and pants issued by the Western Reserve Joint Fire District. Only "WRJFD" or "Poland" and the last name and/or rank of the firefighter are to appear on the back of the coats.

Cleaning:

1. Must be laundered after every fire response where smoke was produced, after any exposure to tar, fuel, resins or body fluids or every six (6) months. The quartermaster shall establish a schedule rotation for a biannual washing. Cleaning will take place at a time/date convenient to the firefighter. The firefighter shall coordinate with the quartermaster.
2. Liners and shell can be washed with mild detergent unless specifically prohibited by equipment manufacturer.
3. Heavily soiled spots can be removed with general spot cleaners unless specifically prohibited by equipment manufacturer.)
4. Cleaning service may be used as directed by Officer-in-Charge.

Repairs:

1. All repairs that require stitching must be made with thread that is comparable to that used by the manufacturer.
2. Broken straps
3. Rivets pulled loose from fabric and from the objects they secure
4. Suspenders, snaps and leather eyes which are broken or elongated
5. Stitching missing
6. Holes or rips in shell of garment
7. Frayed or worn collars
8. Reflective stripes which are severely cracked or torn

Replace:

1. Coats and pants which the stitching is damaged beyond repair
2. Coats and pants on which the fabric is worn through
3. Coats and pants soiled to the point they cannot be cleaned or are saturated with oil, tar, etc.

Boots

Cleaning: Use warm water and mild detergent

Repair:

1. Felt lining which has come loose from the top of the boot
2. Boot loops broken

Replace:

1. Any boot with holes in sole or cuts in body of boot

Care and Maintenance of Protective Equipment Every Six Months

Gear should be cleaned once every six months or as soon as possible after exposure to smoke and smoke by-products, body fluids, tar, fuel, resins, etc.

General cleaning of gear can be done with one of the liquid forms of Tide, Wisk, Cheer, Fab or a cleaner especially designed for fire gear. Do not dry-clean or use chlorine bleach, they will destroy the fabric. When disinfecting gear use Liquid Clorox 2.

Liners should be separated from the outer shell when washing and drying. When drying gear use a forced air dryer or hang in ambient air, but do not dry in direct sunlight.

The washing machine used for Protective Gear is intended for washing protective clothing. Bed linen, dish towels, personal clothing, and other station linens and washables shall not be washed in the machine designated for protective clothing due to the possibility of cross contamination unless two clean rinse cycles are run between loads.

The quartermaster shall be responsible for all cleaning of gear, and will coordinate with the firefighters. The chief may appoint individuals at each station who shall specifically be responsible for cleaning the gear of firefighters assigned to that station.

VII. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT RETIREMENT POLICY

Western Reserve Joint Fire District personal protective equipment will be turned into the turn Officer-in-Charge when a member:

1. Retires
2. Is on an extended leave of absence
3. Is terminated
4. Resigns

The list of items to be returned are as follows:

1. Bunker coat and pants
2. Boots
3. Helmet (exception for retirees with a minimum of 15 years of service)
4. SCBA protective mask and bag
5. Station key/ key fob
6. Pager and charger

USE OF DISTRICT GEAR AND EQUIPMENT POLICY

The Western Reserve Joint Fire District firefighters shall not wear District issued turnout gear or use District issued equipment in the course of working or volunteering for another fire department or emergency service. Likewise, a firefighter shall not use District issued turnout gear or equipment in non-approved hands-on training. Any loss or damage to District equipment in violation of this policy shall be the responsibility of the offending District employee.

Absent exigent circumstances or pre-approval of a Chief Fire Officer, no firefighter shall wear turnout gear issued by another fire department or emergency service organization when responding to an emergency or participating in a drill/training activity as a Western Reserve Joint Fire District firefighter or EMS service providers. All firefighters must realize that loss or damage to turnout gear or equipment owned by another fire department and/or emergency service organization may not be covered by the District's insurer. Firefighters may be held responsible for reimbursement to the owner of the damaged or lost turnout gear or equipment.

POLICY REGARDING ADDITIONS/DEVIATIONS/SUBSTITUTIONS TO REGULAR ISSUED WRJFD GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

On occasion, WRJFD firefighters request to add items to their regularly issued turnout gear and equipment. Some additions are temporary in nature (i.e. flashlights, or helmet stickers), while other additions may be of a more permanent nature effecting the equipment itself (i.e. eye shields).

Temporary Additions. Temporary additions to the equipment will be permitted, as long as the added piece of equipment:

1. Will not cause an operational deficiency.
2. Is in good taste.
3. Meets applicable NFPA and/or other code standards, if any.
4. Is pre-approved by a Chief Officer.

Permanent Additions. Firefighters may add equipment that may become a permanent installation to their equipment on the following additional conditions:

1. If an installation is required, a person designated by the Fire District shall perform the installation.
2. The firefighter remains ultimately responsible for the maintenance, care and upkeep of the District's equipment.
3. The firefighter agrees to pay for any damage to the District's equipment caused by the installation or deviation.
4. Any addition to the District's equipment becomes District property.
5. Any equipment removed as part of the installation will be turned in to the Quartermaster.
6. Any additional cost will be paid for by the individual firefighter.
7. All additions must meet department requirements and/or NFPA or other applicable standard guidelines.

Substitutions. On occasion, WRJFD firefighters may wish to substitute equipment/gear purchased by him or her for District issued equipment. Such examples occur with respect to boots (leather for rubber), gloves, hoods, and helmets. Such substitutions may be made under the following additional conditions:

1. The new piece of gear or equipment is consistent with respect to color, size, shape or other characteristic with the gear or equipment currently used by District personnel.
2. The new piece of equipment meets or exceeds the characteristics of the District issued gear equipment with respect to safety, protection, and durability.
3. The firefighter remains responsible for all new equipment. The firefighter retains ownership of the equipment.

The Fire District reserves the right to order the use of fire department issued equipment. A list of pre-approved additions or substitutions is attached.

CASCADE FILLING OPERATIONS

1. Clean cylinder with soap and water; use a soft brush or rag. Rinse with clean water. **NOTE: DO NOT GET WATER INTO VALVE ASSEMBLY.** Wipe dry with towel.
2. Inspect cylinder for deep nicks, cuts, damage to cylinder valve or heat damage cylinder paint will turn brown.
3. Before filing SCBA cylinders, check the hydrostatic test date on cylinder to be filled.
 - A. Composite cylinders every **three (3) years**.
 - B. Steel cylinders every **five (5) years**.
4. Set regulator pressure valve to specified cylinder pressure using D.O.T. pressure off of cylinder.
5. Place cylinder in filling station.
6. Make sure that cylinder bank valves, SCBA valves and bleeder valves are closed.
7. Open/close bank valves one at a time to determine bank with lowest pressure.
8. While holding the fill line in one hand, crack the SCBA valve and blow out fill line for three (3) seconds.
9. Close SCBA valve.
10. Crack open and close cylinder valve of the cylinder to be filled.
11. Connect fill line to cylinder valve.
12. Close the cylinder valve of the NXG2 cylinder to be filled. Note the reading on the SCBA gauge. (some other cylinders must be filled in the open position)
13. Slide top cover closed.
14. Pull handle to lock position.
15. Open bank with lowest pressure that is at least 200 P.S.I. higher than cylinder being filled.
16. Slowly open SCBA valve to achieve a fill rate of not less than 500 P.S.I. but not greater than 1500 P.S.I. per minute.
17. When pressured have equalized, close bank valve and SCBA valve.
18. Open next highest bank valve if needed by repeating steps #16 and #17.

19. Repeat #18 until desired cylinder pressure is achieved.
20. Close all bank valves and SCBA valve.
21. Unlock handle by moving into opposite position.
22. Slide cover open.
23. Turn cylinder valve to close position.
24. Open bleeder valve on fill line.
25. Disconnect fill line and place in storage position.
26. Remove the filled cylinder.
27. If no more cylinders are to be filled, with bleeder valve open, open SCBA valve to drain excess air in system. Close SCBA valve.
28. Slide cover shut.

REFILLING CASCADE SYSTEM

1. Check oil.
2. Record starting hour.
3. Turn on air compressor.
4. Check gauges and record reading on work sheet.
NOTE:
 - A. First Stage - 40 P.S.I.
 - B. Second Stage - 280 P.S.I.
 - C. Third Stage - 850 P.S.I. at 4500 P.S.I.
 - D. Fourth Stage - 0 to 4500 P.S.I.OIL P.S.I. - 1000
5. Open bank valve on cylinder filling station that corresponds with cylinder to be filled.
NOTE: Fill one cylinder at a time - compressor will stop on its own (4500 P.S.I.).
6. Repeat steps until all cylinders are full.
7. Record ending time on work sheet.
8. Turn off compressor.

PERSONAL ALERT SAFETY SYSTEM (PASS)

All self-contained breathing apparatus (S.C.B.A.) units shall be outfitted with a Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) device. The PASS device shall be integrated into the SCBA. The PASS device shall be used whenever the SCBA unit is placed in service.

When the SCBA equipment is turned on, the unit shall automatically activate the PASS device.

It is the responsibility of the wearer to insure that the PASS Device is activated at the time the SCBA face piece is donned and the regulator main line valve is opened.

The PASS device shall be checked for proper functioning:

Each week

Whenever a replacement unit is issued

After each use.

Rescue. When a rescuer locates a firefighter who is in need of assistance and whose PASS device is in the alert mode, the rescuer shall silence the PASS device so that the alert tone does not interfere with normal or emergency radio traffic.

Adopted: 11/19/95

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR PROXIMITY FIREFIGHTING OPERATIONS

Members who engage in or are exposed to the hazards of proximity firefighting shall be provided with and shall use both proximity protective coats and proximity protective trousers or a proximity protective coverall, for limbs/torso protection. The proximity protective coat and proximity protective trousers, or the proximity protective coverall shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1976, Standard on Protective Clothing for Proximity Firefighting.

Adopted: 11/19/95

SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (S.C.B.A.)

Open-circuit SCBA shall be positive pressure and shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1981, Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Firefighters. Closed circuit SCBA shall be NIOSH/MSHA certified with a minimum service restoration of at least 30 minutes and shall operate in a positive pressure mode only.

Weight and stress reduction should be an objective in the acquisition of new SCBA and when upgrading currently, used SCBA.

SCBA shall be provided for and shall be used by all members working in areas where:

- a. The atmosphere is hazardous;
- b. The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous;
- c. The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.

Areas where the atmosphere can rapidly become hazardous could include rooftop areas during ventilation operations and areas where an explosion or container eruption could be anticipated.

A hazardous atmosphere should be suspected in overhaul areas and above the fire floor in the building. Members working in these areas are required to use their SCBA unless the safety of the atmosphere is established by testing and maintained by effective ventilation. With effective ventilation and operation, face pieces can be removed, under direct supervision, but SCBA should continue to be worn, or should be immediately available.

Members using SCBA shall operate in teams of two or more.

At any time any members are working inside any confined space, such member shall be provided with SCBA unless the safety of the atmosphere can be established by testing and continuous monitoring.

Members using SCBA shall not compromise the protective integrity of the SCBA for any reason when operating in a hazardous atmosphere, or in an atmosphere where the quality of air is unknown, by removing the face piece or disconnecting any portion of the SCBA that would allow the ambient atmosphere to be breathed.

The Fire District shall maintain a respiratory protection program that addresses selection, inspection, use, maintenance, training, and air quality testing. (A copy of the District's Face Piece Cleaning Procedures is attached to this Section.) Members shall be tested in the same and proper use of SCBA at least annually.

Pressed gaseous air in the SCBA cylinder shall meet the requirements of ANSI/CGA G7.1, Commodity Specification for Air, with a minimum air quality of Grade D, as well as meeting a

dew point level of -65°F (-54°C) or dryer (24 ppm v/v or less), and a maximum particulate level of 5 mg./m³ air.

Air quality produced from the Fire District's compressors, cascade system cylinders, and/or other storage equipment used for filling SCBA cylinders shall be tested at least every three months by a laboratory accredited by the American Industrial Hygiene Association, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, or the National Voluntary Accreditation Program to certify that the breathing air meets the requirements set forth above. The laboratory chosen shall be required to notify the Fire Department immediately if the Department is not meeting the requirements of this Section.

SCBA cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested within the period specified by the manufacturers and the applicable governmental agencies.

The face piece seal capability of each member qualified to use SCBA shall be verified by qualitative fit testing on an annual basis and whenever new types of SCBA or face pieces are issued. Each new member shall be tested before being permitted to use SCBA in a hazardous atmosphere. Only members with properly fitting face pieces shall be permitted by the Fire District to function in a hazardous atmosphere with SCBA.

A growth of beard or facial hair at any point where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fit test measurement that can be obtained, or hair that could interfere with the face piece valve functions shall be prohibited for members required to use SCBA.

When a member must wear corrective lenses when using SCBA, the SCBA face piece shall be fitted with spectacles inside of the face piece in such a manner that shall not interfere with the face seal.

Spectacles with any strap or temple bars that pass through the face piece to face seal areas are prohibited.

Use of soft contact lenses shall be permitted during SCBA use, provided the member has previously demonstrated successful long-term (six month) soft contact lens use.

Use of hard contact lenses during SCBA use is prohibited.

Nothing shall be allowed to enter or pass through the area where the SCBA face piece is designed to seal with the face, regardless of the specific fit test measurement that can be obtained.

Any head covering that passes between the sealing surface of the SCBA face piece and the member's face shall be prohibited.

The SCBA face piece and the head harness with straps shall not be worn over protective hoods.

The SCBA face piece and head harness with straps shall not be worn over the head protection of any hazardous chemical protective clothing.

The wearing of helmets or any helmet worn in conjunction with a hazardous chemical protective clothing shall not interfere with the SCBA face piece to face seal.

If a SCBA is found to be functioning improperly, it shall be taken out of service, tagged and reported to an officer.

All personnel will be assigned an SCBA face piece and are responsible for its use and maintenance.

The use of breathing apparatus means that all personnel shall have their face piece in place, breathing air from the supply provided. When available, airline supplied breathing apparatus may be used in place of an SCBA (i.e., Ladder 91).

Premature removal of the SCBA must be avoided at all times. This is particularly significant during overhaul when smoldering materials may produce increased quantities of carbon monoxide and other toxic products. In these cases, an SCBA must be used or the atmosphere must be deemed as safe using an atmospheric monitor.

In routine fire situations, the decision to remove SCBA shall be made by the IC, based on an evaluation of scene conditions. Prior to removal, fire areas shall be thoroughly ventilated and where necessary, continuous ventilation shall be provided.

If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBA use shall be maintained until the atmosphere is established safe by testing with an atmospheric monitor.

In specific situations for which no guidelines have been provided, the proper protective clothing to protect against all unforeseeable hazards shall be worn.

Annual Evaluation. Annually, there will be an evaluation of all members of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District in the use of SCBA. Each member shall be able to demonstrate proficiency and compatibility with the SCBA under conditions that simulate those expected on the job.

Sanitation of Air Masks

1. When handling all air masks prior to disinfecting procedure, issued protective gloves shall be worn when removing air masks from apparatus and during the entire disinfecting procedure. All cleaning and disinfecting procedures should not exceed 110° Fahrenheit.
2. Wash face piece assembly with warm water and soap (Ivory). A soft brush may be used to scrub rubber components. Do not use the brush on the lens; use cleaning sponge on lens.

3. Rinse face piece assembly thoroughly.
4. Make up a solution of hypochlorite by mixing 2 Tablespoons of 5% chlorine bleach in one gallon of water.
5. Place masks in solution totally submerged and let soak for 10 minutes.
6. Remove face piece from disinfecting solution. Shake excess solution out of face piece.
7. Rinse face piece assembly thoroughly with cool water.
8. Inspect face piece for worn or aging rubber parts or damaged components. Also inspection of any worn, frayed webbing or any missing parts – if these exist, the face piece shall be taken out of service. If repair is required, contact an authorized person to repair the unit.
9. Use clean dry cloth towel to dry off remaining water both inside and outside of face piece.
10. Place face piece in upright hanging position allowing face piece to air dry.
11. Wipe face piece out with 70% isopropyl alcohol using the sterile gauze applicators.
12. AntiFog the lens of face piece inside and out with provided approved solution using the sterile gauze applicators. This may be done in the same manner as you would clean a window.
13. Adjust straps of head harness to full outward position.
14. Dump disinfecting solution out of container. Clean container with mild soap and water. Let dry and place back in storage.
15. All drying towels and wash towels shall be washed and dried before putting back in service. Wash towels in soap and bleach.
16. Make sure AIR ROOM is properly cleaned and all materials are put back in place.

Fill Station

When filling SCBA bottles, ear protection must be worn, all safety features on the fill station must be used, and no persons other than those filling the air bottles may be present in the immediate vicinity of the fill station (not in the same room). The settings on the air compressor may not be changed without the consent of the Fire Chief.

SCBA air bottles shall be refilled when the air supply is depleted past 10% of the rated capacity of the bottle.

SCBA cylinders shall be hydrostatically tested within the periods specified by the manufacturer and all applicable governmental agencies.

CHEMICAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Vapor-Protective Garments - Members who engage in operations during hazardous chemical emergencies that will expose them to known chemicals in vapor form or to unknown chemicals shall be provided with and shall use vapor protective suits. Vapor protective suits shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1991, Standard on Vapor Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies.

Liquid Splash-Protective Garments - Members who engage in operations during hazardous chemical emergencies that will expose them to known chemicals in liquid - splash form shall be provided with and shall use liquid splash protective suits. Liquid splash protective suits shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1992, Standards on Liquid Splash Protective Suits for Hazardous Chemical Emergencies.

Support Functions Protective Garments - Members who provide functional support outside the hot zone during hazardous chemical emergencies shall be provided with and shall use support function protective garments. Support function protective garments shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1993, Standard on Supporting Function Protective Garments for Hazardous Chemical Operations.

Inspection, Maintenance, and Disposal of Chemical Protective Clothing - All chemical protective clothing shall be inspected and maintained as required by the Technical Data Package, manufacturer's instructions and recommendations.

Adopted: 11/19/95

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL OPERATIONS

Members who perform emergency medical care or otherwise are likely to be exposed to blood or other bodily fluids shall be provided with emergency medical garments, emergency medical face protection devices, and emergency medical gloves and to meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1999, Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations.

Members shall wear emergency medical gloves when providing emergency medical care. Patient care shall not be initiated before the gloves are in place.

Each member shall use emergency medical garments and emergency medical face protection devices prior to any patient care during which large splashes of bodily fluids can occur, as situations involving spurting blood or childbirth.

Contaminated emergency medical garments, emergency medical face protection devices, and emergency medical gloves shall be cleaned and disinfected or disposed of in accordance with these SOP's.

Adopted: 11/19/95

EYE AND FACE PROTECTION

Primary face and eye protection appropriate for a given specific hazard shall be provided for and used by members exposed to that specific hazard.

The full face piece of SCBA shall constitute face and eye protection when worn. SCBA that have face piece mounted regulators, which, when disconnected, provide a direct path for flying objects to strike the face or eyes, shall have the regulator attached in order to be considered eye and face protected.

When operating in a hazardous area in an emergency scene without the full face piece of SCBA being worn, members shall deploy the helmet face shield for partial face protection.

Adopted: 11/19/95

HEARING PROTECTION

Hearing protection shall be provided for and used by all members operating or riding on fire apparatus when subject to noise in excess of 90 dba.

Hearing protection shall be provided for and used by all members when exposed to noise in excess of 90 dba caused by power tools or equipment, other than in situations where the use of such protective equipment would create additional hazard to the user.

The Fire Department shall engage in a hearing conservation program to identify and reduce or eliminate potentially harmful sources of noise in the work environment. Where audiometric testing indicates a significant hearing loss for a member, the Fire Department shall address these conditions on an individual basis, as well as take steps to control potentially harmful noise exposure to any and all other members.

Adopted: 11/19/95

LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSSES, AND HARDWARE

All life safety ropes, harnesses, and hardware used by the Fire Department shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1983, Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope, Harnesses, and Hardware.

Class I live safety harnesses shall only be used for a firefighter attachment to ladders and aerial devices.

Class II and Class III life safety harnesses shall be utilized for fall arrest and repelling operations.

Rope used to support the weight of members or other persons during rescue, firefighting, other emergency operations, or during training evolutions, shall be life safety rope. Life safety rope used for any other purpose shall be removed from service and destroyed.

Life safety rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents or for training shall be permitted to be reused if inspected before and after each such use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and provided:

- a. The rope has not been visually damaged by exposure to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure or abrasion;
- b. The rope has not been subjected to any impact load.
- c. The rope has not been exposed to chemical liquids, solids, gases, mists, or vapors of any material known to deteriorate rope.
- d. If the rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents or for training has been subjected to a, b, or c above, or fails the visual inspection, it shall be destroyed after such use. If there is any question regarding the serviceability of the rope after consideration of the above, the safe course of action shall be taken and the rope shall be placed out of service.

Rope inspection shall be conducted by qualified inspectors in accordance with rope inspection procedures established and recommended as adequate by rope manufacturers to assure the rope is suitable for rescue.

Records shall be maintained to document the use of each life safety rope used at fires and other emergency incidents or for training.

Adopted: 11/19/95

PURCHASES OF NEW PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT/STANDARDS FOR EXISTING CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

All new protective clothing and protective equipment shall meet the requirements of this Section and current editions of the applicable NFPA Standard.

Existing protective clothing and protective equipment shall have been in compliance with the edition of the respective NFPA standard that was current when the protective clothing and protective equipment was manufactured.

SCBA HARNESS CLEANING

1. Wash harness with warm water and mild soap (Ivory). A soft brush can be used to scrub the webbing/frame. With a sponge or rag wipe down the outside of the breathing regulator and pressure reducer hose.
2. Rinse webbing/frame down with warm or cool water. Use a rag or sponge to rinse down the breathing regulator and hoses. **DO NOT GET WATER IN THE BREATHING REGULATOR OR THE PRESSURE REDUCER HOSE COUPLING.**
3. Hang harness up to air dry. Use a towel to dry frame, pressure reducer, hoses, gauges, and breathing regulator.
4. Adjust all straps to the full outward position and untangle if necessary.
5. Inspect all harness webbing for wear, aging, frayed or burned parts. Inspect all metal components for corrosion or wear. If these exist, take the unit out of service and bring it to an authorized person for repair.
6. When steps 1 through 5 are completed, the unit can be put back together and placed in service.
7. All SCBA units must be returned to the proper apparatus and seat, in order to match the SEMS unit registration.

Adopted: 11/19/95