



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

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| Policy Title: | Protective Clothing | | |
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| Approved By: | Tom Jenkins | Last Updated: | March 2023 |
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure all members of the RFD wear appropriate protective clothing on emergency incidents to afford protection against foreseeable hazards.

DEFINITIONS

The RFD defines the following protective equipment ensembles as:

- Full protective structural clothing “Bunker Gear”: complete PPE ensemble that includes a helmet with eye protection, flashover hood, bunker coat, bunker pants, structural boots, appropriate protective gloves, and SCBA with integrated pass. Ensemble compliant to NFPA 1971.
- Limited protective wildland and technical rescue clothing “Light Gear”: complete PPE ensemble that includes a helmet (wildland or structural) with eye protection (when applicable), wildland/rescue protective coat and trousers, boots, appropriate protective gloves and footwear. Ensemble compliant to NFPA 1977 and/or 1951.
- Full protective surface water protective clothing: complete PPE ensemble that includes an appropriate helmet and eye protection, protective wet or dry suit, appropriate gloves, footwear, and personal flotation device. Ensemble compliant to NFPA 1952.
- Full vapor protective ensemble: complete PPE ensemble that includes an appropriate helmet and eye protection, appropriate hazardous material encapsulation suit, appropriate gloves and footwear, and SCBA with integrated pass. Ensemble compliant to NFPA 1991.
- Full liquid splash protective ensemble: complete PPE ensemble that includes adequate head, eye, and airway protection, appropriate liquid

splash protection suit, appropriate gloves and footwear. Ensemble compliant to NFPA 1992 and/or 1994.

POLICY

When responding from quarters, all employees shall dress accordingly prior to response. When questions of appropriate PPE are discussed, members should err on the side of caution, providing a higher level of protection than may be necessary. When responding, it is common for some crew members to wear different types of PPE. The driver/operator of fire company would normally not don PPE prior to a response and might wear a lower level of PPE protection if they're not operating inside an IDLH environment. Helmets shall not be worn while responding inside apparatus.

Full protective structure clothing shall be worn at incidents that are likely to necessitate the use of an SCBA by the member. Examples of these incident types include:

- A. Structural fires
- B. Transportation vehicle fires
- C. Fires involving trash, waste receptacles, and other noxious agents
- D. Fire alarm investigations
- E. ~~Vehicle extrication activities (minus SCBA)~~
- F. Hazardous materials incidents involving fluid spills and gas leaks

While fighting grass, wildland, or other outdoor fires, firefighters shall exercise discretion as to the level of protective clothing appropriate. The standard PPE to be utilized should be Light Gear. Full protective structural clothing can be used if deemed appropriate by the incident commander.

While operating at technical rescue incidents, firefighters shall utilize Light Gear unless other hazards dictate a different PPE strategy. Full protective surface water protective clothing shall be utilized at emergencies involving surface water.

While operating at hazardous materials incidents, firefighters shall exercise discretion as to the level of protective clothing and appropriate respiratory protection. The options for personnel are:

- A. Vapor protection suit
- B. Vapor protection suit with flash fire protection
- C. Liquid splash protection suit
- D. Full protective structural clothing
- E. Duty clothing

The incident commander shall have final authority for determining the appropriate level of protective equipment. It is paramount to continually recognize the limitations of all pieces of protective equipment as well as to continually evaluate

when levels of protection change to allow for lesser protection, or where more protection is required.

Bunker Gear should not be worn to medical emergencies or other incidents that might accidentally cause secondary contamination of a citizen's home or place of work. Firefighters should also not use bunker gear as an alternative to a normal work uniform while grocery shopping or performing other non-emergency activities. Light Gear may be worn to medical emergencies, but is not the desired choice if other options are available.