
	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE			
	OPERATIONS			
	FIRE SCENE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE – CLEANING & CARE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLE (PPE)			
	Effective: 12/Feb/2019	Revised: 28/Dec/2020	S.O.G. #: O-342.2	

1.0 Purpose



- 1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to ensure the highest degree of firefighter safety through the implementation of cleaning and care procedures for structural firefighter's protective clothing.
- 1.2 Firefighter protective clothing must be kept clean to ensure its proper performance. Dirty gear carries less insulation, is more likely to conduct heat and electricity, lacks liquid shedding properties and can become potentially flammable. Furthermore, many fire ground contaminants are carcinogens and contain chemicals that are toxic to the skin.

2.0 Responsibility

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of all Highland Park Fire Department personnel to understand and follow the information documented in this Standard Operating Guideline. Supervisors are responsible for insuring that personnel maintain compliance with this guideline.

3.0 Cleaning of Structural Fire Gear

- 3.1 Prior to leaving an incident scene, a determination will be made by the company officer or incident commander whether or not fire scene gross decontamination procedures are required. If on scene gross decontamination is required, follow the procedures documented in SOG O-341, Fire Scene Gross Decontamination.
- 3.2 Care and cleaning of the personal protective ensemble (PPE) should be accomplished per the attached label or sewn-in care instructions provided in each garment in accordance with the NFPA 1851 cleaning and care standard.
- 3.3 Utilize appropriate barriers gloves when handling dirty turnouts
- 3.4 For routine cleaning, PPE can be cleaned using the extractor at Station 33. Standard station washing machines meant for uncontaminated uniforms, clothes, and linens *shall not be used* for routine cleaning of bunker gear. *Do not use* chlorine bleach, detergents with chlorine additives, or fabric softener when cleaning bunker gear. Only use the supplied gear cleaning solutions provided at the station gear extractor locations. PPE shall be washed in accordance to HPFD SOP E-220 Fire Department Washer Extractor.
 - 3.4.1 If structural fire gear is contaminated it is recommended that the procedures documented in 4.0 be followed.
- 3.5 If the turnout gear was damaged during incident activity or in the cleaning process, the damage should be reported to the immediate supervisor. Please include information into the exact nature of the damage.



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4.0 Contaminated Structural Fire Gear

- 4.1 Any structural fire gear considered contaminated shall be bagged or over packed on the scene.
- 4.2 If deemed safe enough to transport back to quarters, The on duty Battalion Chief will be notified and a determination will be made as to whether or not it can be cleaned in-house, sent off to be cleaned, or whether it must be disposed of.
- 4.3 No member shall take any article of personal protective clothing home to be cleaned or laundered. Nor shall they take any article of protective equipment to any commercial laundry facility without approval from the department.

5.0 Operational Information

- 5.1 NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting, has led to an increased awareness among firefighters for the need to have turnout clothing laundered regularly. The NFPA Technical Committee for structural clothing addressed this in the 1991 revision of NFPA 1971 by adding an appendix item dedicated exclusively to the care and cleaning of bunker clothing. NFPA 1851 sets minimum requirements for the inspection, care, and cleaning of all protective ensemble elements covered by NFPA 1971. The label on every garment provides very basic information for laundering; however, what follows is a much more comprehensive set of instructions for cleaning gear:
 - 5.1.1 Liners and the Drag Rescue Device (DRD) should be removed from the shell and laundered separately. This is to prevent any contaminants on the shell being transferred to the inner portions of the garment during the laundering process. It is also recommended that you turn the liner inside out prior to laundering to facilitate the drying of the inner layer.
 - 5.1.2 All closures should be fastened. Hook and loop hook tape covering hook and loop pile, hooks and dees fastened, zippers zipped, and snaps fastened. It is imperative that you cover the hook portion of all hooks and loops to prevent snagging during laundering and to help guard against premature wear.
 - 5.1.3 The special fabrics that make up your structural fire gear contain inherent flame and heat resistance properties, which cannot be washed off or worn out.
 - 5.1.4 Protective clothing should always be washed by itself; do not overload the washing machine, do not use softeners, and NEVER use chlorine bleach.
 - 5.1.5 Recommended method of drying is to hang on the gear drying rack with good cross ventilation. The turnout ensemble will dry more quickly if you separate the layers for laundering and turning the liner system inside out will facilitate drying of the quilt thermal barrier. Do not dry gear in direct sunlight.

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6.0 References and Supporting Documents

- 6.1 NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting.
- 6.2 HPFD SOP E-220 Fire Department Washer Extractor

Approved:  Fire Chief