



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

Subject: PROTECTIVE CLOTHING STANDARDS

Revised: 11-11-08

26.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this GO is to identify protective clothing standards for SFD personnel, including guidelines for its use, maintenance, and repair. The intent is to ensure the well being of SFD members by providing maximum protection.

This SOG will be made available to each Stamford Fire Department member/employee.

26.02 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING STANDARDS

Only NFPA 1971 approved, SFD issue protective clothing is authorized for use by department member/employees; all helmet and turnout (bunker) clothing markings shall be in accordance with current SFD policies. All NFPA tags shall remain in each piece of protective clothing. Each type of protective clothing is identified and described below:

Helmet – Paul Conway Traditional style helmet or equivalent, with face safety shield or approved goggles and full shock absorbent helmet liner.

Protective hood - woven fire-retardant material.

Turnout coat - 7.5 ounce Nomex Aramid construction, complete with manufactured safety liner.

Wildland gear- Coveralls or pants and shirt with Wildland helmet, NFPA 1971 approved

Turnout pants - 7.5 ounce Nomex Aramid construction, complete with manufactured safety liners; suspenders in accordance with pants design.

Turnout boots - knee length, black in color, with pull loops, liners, puncture resistant insole, anti-skid soles, shin guards, and steel toes.

Gloves - SFD research efforts will continuously seek to identify the most appropriate, safest glove product(s) available

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) - 30-minute (minimum) open-circuit, positive-pressure unit with full-face piece.

Personal Alert Device (PAD) - alarm for trapped or disoriented firefighter - attached to bunker coat.



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

26.03 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING USE STANDARDS

Only protective clothing identified in Section 26.02 above shall be worn by SFD personnel while involved in departmental operations or evolutions. Full protective clothing includes: helmet, hood, turnout coat, turnout boots, turnout pants, gloves, SCBA and PAD, or a specified level of hazardous materials protective clothing as outlined.

SCBA shall be used by all personnel engaged in all firefighting activities and other operations where respiratory damage may be a factor.

An exception is authorized for non-structure fires, on an incident-by-incident basis. The officer in charge may determine that the situation and environment pose no threat and inform personnel that they may discontinue the use of SCBA. Officers should carefully consider the nature and potential severity of all fires in general, before making such a decision.

The safety of SFD personnel is the key consideration. In the absence of a specific instruction, SCBA is to be worn at all times. If a firefighter is injured as a direct result of an absence of SCBA, the officer in charge and firefighter will be held accountable for that injury.

The following mandates shall apply to the use of breathing apparatus.

NEVER breathe smoke.

NEVER attempt a below-grade or confined space rescue without breathing apparatus (SCBA or hose line unit).

NEVER enter an unknown atmosphere (tank rescue, confined space, vapor-cloud area, etc.) without breathing apparatus.

Full protective clothing shall be worn by all personnel actively involved in an emergency. Included are areas where, by virtue of the firefighter's placement, task, or responsibility, a hostile environment may be present. An exception is authorized for non-hazardous medical emergencies, at the discretion of the officer in charge.

In all situations involving water operations (lakes, creeks, flooding, pool, etc.) full protective clothing is **NOT** to be worn; this includes all turnout gear, Wildland Helmet and Coveralls are acceptable. Use of gloves is optional in these situations.



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

All clips, snaps, belts, or buckles that are essential to maintain the safety and function of the protective clothing shall be properly affixed.

Incident commanders, regardless of rank, are exempt from the protective clothing requirements only when and if they are functioning as incident commander and are located in a non-hazardous position.

The responsibility of ensuring compliance with this GO falls upon the officer in charge of the event, whether it is emergency or non-emergency in nature.

26.04 PROCEDURES ENROUTE TO A FIRE ALARM INCIDENT

Firefighters must be dressed in turnout boots, pants, and coat before mounting the apparatus (jump seats and/or officers seat).

Drivers have the option of not wearing protective clothing while enroute to an alarm incident, subject to company officer approval.

Drivers must ascertain that all firefighters are properly clothed and safely seat belted in the apparatus before starting to roll.

When an alarm is received by radio while apparatus is out of the station on non-emergency business, the apparatus shall be safely stopped, and the address and type of alarm relayed to all firefighters. All firefighters will don protective clothing when the apparatus arrived on scene of the alarm incident.

Personnel are to don the SCBA provided, on any apparatus on scene, unless otherwise instructed by the company officer.

It shall be the company officer's responsibility to ensure that all of his/her assigned firefighters are properly clothed.

All personnel shall wear seat belts while riding any Fire Department vehicle, whether responding to an alarm or otherwise.



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

26.05 PROCEDURES AT AN ALARM INCIDENT

All firefighters shall be in full protective clothing when entering an alarm incident area (vehicle accidents, structure fires, grass fires, etc.), except as otherwise authorized by the officer in charge of the incident.

When fire apparatus is operating in an alarm incident area, the driver/operator must be in full protective clothing if the possibility exists that he/she may be exposed to fire, hazardous materials, or any other potential hazard.

The officer in charge of an incident is the only person authorized to allow personnel on the scene to remove their protective clothing.

The officer in charge shall ascertain that the area is not hazardous to the firefighters and accept full responsibility in issuing the orders that firefighters may remove their protective clothing.

Firefighters are not required to remove their protective clothing when such permission is authorized.

Firefighters removing their turnout coat must leave some type of clothing on their upper bodies (shirt, T-shirt, etc.).

26.05 PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS

Each company officer is responsible for ensuring that all firefighters under his/her command wear protective clothing at all times, except as herein permitted. A company officer is also required to wear full protective clothing unless he/she is in charge of the incident and is not engaged in actual suppression or other hazardous duties.

It is the responsibility of the assistance chief, or other ranking incident commander, to see that officers fulfill this responsibility.

Each position in the chain of command shall be held accountable for the actions of subordinate personnel.

The penalty for violation of this GO is immediate removal from the fire ground and suspension, (to be determined by the chief officers).



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

This penalty applies to all ranks and persons who have responsibilities outlined above and who have failed to fulfill those responsibilities.

Assistant Chiefs may invoke this penalty on company officers and firefighters.

The Assistant Chiefs and/or Fire Chief will enforce these provisions, including immediate suspension of the Assistant Chief, if they arrive on the fire ground and observe a violation he/she has failed to correct.

This minimum penalty applies to all first-time violations; subsequent offenses will be dealt with more severely.

26.06 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING INSPECTION & RECORD KEEPING

All protective clothing records shall be maintained by the Fire Chief or his designee in the FireHouse program, and shall be maintained for three (3) years after the Personal Protective Clothing has been retired or destroyed.

When Personal Protective Clothing is issued to personnel, the Officer in Charge shall provide instructions to the receiving personnel regarding proper use, inspection and cleaning of the Protective Clothing. It is the receiving firefighter's responsibility to ensure their Personal Protective Clothing is clean and report any problems with the equipment to the Fire Chief or his designee.

Records shall be kept on all SFD Personal Protective Equipment.

- Whom issued to

- Manufacturer information (i.e. serial number, manufacture date, etc)

- Maintenance (inspections, cleaning etc.)

- Retirement and disposal



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

26.07 ROUTINE INSPECTION

No Accessories shall be added to any ensemble element without written approval of the manufacturer and approval of Stamford Fire Department Administration.

Individual member/employees shall conduct a routine inspection of their PPE after each use. Routine inspections shall include as a minimum, the inspections of the following ensembles:

- Coat and pant garment elements
- Hood
- Helmet
- Gloves
- Footwear
- Drag Rescue Device (DRD) components (if equipped)
- Interface components

COAT AND TROUSER GARMENT ELEMENTS

Coat and trouser garment elements shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage such as the following:
 - a. Rips, tears & cuts
 - b. Damaged or missing hardware & closure systems
 - c. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes melting, discoloration of any layer).
4. Damaged or missing reflective trim.
5. Loss of seam integrity and broken or missing stitches
6. Correct assembly & size compatibility of shell, liner & drag rescue device (DRD)

HOOD ELEMENTS

Hood element shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage such as the following:
 - a. Rips, tears & cuts
 - b. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes melting, discoloration of any layer).
4. Loss of face opening adjustment
5. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

HELMET ELEMENTS

Helmet elements shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage to the shell such as the following:
 - a. Cracks, crazing, dents, & Abrasions
 - b. Thermal damage to the shell (bubbling, soft spots, warping, discoloration)
4. Physical damage to the earflaps such as the following:
 - a. Rips, tears & cuts
 - b. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes, melting)
5. Damage or missing components of the suspension & retention systems
6. Damage or missing components of the face shield/goggles systems, including discoloration, crazing & scratches to the face shield/goggle lens limiting visibility
7. Damaged or missing reflective trim
8. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches

GLOVE ELEMENTS

Glove elements shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage such as the following:
 - a. Rips, tears & cuts
 - b. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes melting, discoloration of any layer).
 - c. Inverted liner
4. Shrinkage
5. Loss of elasticity or flexibility
6. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches

FOOTWEAR ELEMENTS

Footwear elements shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage such as the following:
 - a. Cuts, tears & punctures
 - b. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes, melting, discoloration of any layer).
 - c. Exposed or deformed steel toe, steel midsole, or shank



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

4. Loss of water resistance
5. Closure system component damage
6. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches

DRAG RESCUE DEVICE COMPONENTS (If equipped)

Drag rescue device (DRD) components shall be inspected for the following:

1. Installation in garment
2. Soiling
3. Contamination
4. Physical damage such as the following:
 - a. Cuts, tears, puncture, cracking or splitting
 - b. Thermal damage (charring, burn holes, melting, discoloration)
 - c. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches

INTERFACE COMPONENTS

Interface components shall be inspected for the following:

1. Soiling
2. Contamination
3. Physical damage
4. Loss or reduction of properties that allow component to continue as effective interface (i.e. loss of shape, or inability to remain attached to the respective element(s) where attachment is required)
5. Loss of seam integrity & broken or missing stitches

26.07 ADVANCED INSPECTION

All PPE shall be sent to a certified cleaning and repair station every 12 months for advanced inspection, unless the PPE has been heavily soiled or damaged due to exposure to fire products of a biohazard. Then the PPE shall be sent for cleaning and inspection immediately.

Advanced inspections of all protective ensemble elements shall be conducted at a minimum of every 12 months, or whenever routine inspections indicate that a problem could exist. The findings shall be documented in the FireHouse program by the fire chief or his designee.



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

26.08 CLEANING & DECONTAMINATION OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Each member/employee is responsible for keeping his/her protective clothing clean/serviceable. PPE that are soiled and are in need of cleaning shall be cleaned as soon as possible and kept away from public areas where the public could possibly come in contact with the soiled PPE.

If the PPE is contaminated with a Biohazard or Hazardous Material, the PPE shall be sealed in a plastic bag and placed away from public access. Universal precautions shall be taken when handling PPE contaminated with a Biohazard or Hazardous Material. This includes rubber gloves. The officer in charge shall notify the Fire Chief or his designee and proper decontamination procedures started. Hazardous Materials should be identified if the PPE is exposed in an incident. The priority in this situation is firefighter and public safety.

- PPE's are not to be brought into living areas.
- PPE's are not to be brought into food preparation and eating areas
- PPE's are not to be brought into training areas
- Hands shall be washed after handling PPE's

Washable protective clothing (turnout coats, pants, gloves, and hoods) are only to be machine-washed by a [trained](#) person using NFPA approved detergents and the washer/extractor.

Protective clothing that requires washing. The firefighter requesting washing shall contact the Fire Chief with this request. The Fire Chief or his designee will be responsible for seeing the PPE is washed and returned.

ROUTINE CLEANING

The firefighter shall be responsible for the routine cleaning of their issued PPE. The firefighter shall examine the manufacturer's label and user information for instructions on cleaning and drying that the manufacturer provided with the PPE. In the absence of manufacturer's instructions or manufacturer's approval of alternative procedures for the PPE, the routine cleaning & drying procedures provided in this section shall be used.

ROUTINE CLEANING PROCESS

Where possible, the contamination levels shall be evaluated & used shall be initiated at the emergency scene.

PPE shall be isolated whenever possible to avoid cross contamination.

Any dry debris shall be brushed off.

Other debris shall be gently rinsed off with water. Heavy scrubbing or spraying with high-velocity water jets such as a power washer shall not be used.

Where necessary, PPE for routine cleaning shall be cleaned in a utility sink designated for PPE



Stamford Fire Department

201 E McHarg

Stamford, Texas 79553

cleaning and the following decontamination using the following procedures:

1. Heavily soiled or spotted areas shall be pre-treated. Chlorine bleach, chlorinated solvents, active-ingredient cleaning agents or solvents shall not be used without PPE manufacturer approval.
2. Water temperature shall not exceed 105° Fahrenheit.
3. Mild detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH as indicated on the product MSDS or original product container shall be used.
4. Protective gloves and eye/face splash protection shall be worn.
5. PPE shall be gently scrubbed using a soft bristle brush
6. PPE shall be thoroughly rinsed
7. PPE shall be inspected and, where necessary, shall be rewashed or submitted for advanced cleaning procedures. The manufacturer shall be consulted if stronger cleaning agents are required.
8. PPE shall be dried in accordance with the drying procedures as noted in the program.
9. Following the routine cleaning procedure, the utility sink shall be rinsed.

26.09 REPAIRING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

All protective clothing repairs, including replacement of fasteners, reflective trim, etc., shall be performed according to manufacturer's recommendations, unless the item is replaced.

Outer shells for coats and pants must be repaired when tears, burn holes, acid holes, permanent discoloration, or brittleness due to heat, are visible to the naked eye. Repairs shall not exceed 6" x 6" square for any one repair, except when entire coat sleeves are replaced.

Moisture barriers and thermal barriers shall only be repaired by individuals or fire departments certified by the manufacturer to perform such repairs according to manufacturer's specifications.

26.10 REPLACING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

A turnout boot shall be replaced when a hole, tear, or general wear has penetrated completely through the boot.

A helmet face shield shall be replaced when the shield is cracked, melted, burned or discolored to the extent that vision is significantly impaired.

A helmet shall be replaced when it is cracked, punctured, or distorted in any fashion.

A helmet strap or impact crown shall be replaced when it is burned, melted, or worn through to



**Stamford Fire Department
201 E McHarg
Stamford, Texas 79553**

the point that its safety functions are compromised.

A moisture barrier and/or thermal barrier that is torn, burned, or punctured shall be replaced unless repaired as specified in Section 26.07.

Turnout boots and pant or coat outer shells that have an irremovable accumulation of tar or other foreign substances shall be replaced.

Gloves shall be replaced when acid, wear, punctures, or temperatures have caused holes in the outer layer, or when inner linings have detached from the outer linings.

A hood shall be replaced when general use, acid, punctures or temperatures have caused holes or excessive wear.

All protective clothing replacements shall be approved by a chief officer or his/her designee.