

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>BODY PROTECTION</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>PPG# 4200.10</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Operations</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>7/1/98</b>

## **1.0 POLICY**

---

- 1.1** It is the policy of Thurston County Fire District No.5 & 9 to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the protection of its members involved in emergency operation activities. This equipment is provided for their protection and it shall be utilized within the parameters it is designed. This clothing will protect the wearer only if worn properly.

Body protection consists of torso, hand, head, respiratory and foot protection.

**1.2**

## **2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

---

- 2.1** The Assistant Chief of Operations shall be responsible for the development of specifications and the purchase of clothing.
- 2.2** Department employees, under the direction of their shift supervisor, shall be responsible for the inspection of their personal protective equipment in compliance with this procedural guideline.

## **3.0 GUIDELINES**

---

- 3.1** Personal protective clothing shall be worn when conducting active fire suppression activities, back-up and exposure protection operations, motor vehicle accidents, rescue operations and other emergency and training activities where District personnel may be exposed to hazardous situations and environments.
- 3.2** PPE shall be worn at all times at incidents requiring full protective clothing for personal protection, whether an actual or a potential hazard exists.
- 3.3** Emergency situations indicating the need and use of PPE shall include, but not be limited to:

- 3.3.1 Structure Fires
  - 3.3.2 Brush and Grass Fires
  - 3.3.3 Vehicle Fires
  - 3.3.4 Dumpster and garbage fires
  - 3.3.5 Motor Vehicle Accidents
  - 3.3.6 Automatic Fire Alarms
  - 3.3.7 Unknown-type Fires
  - 3.3.8 Hazardous Material spills, leaks and other Haz Mat situations.
  - 3.3.9 Down power lines and power poles, and other situations involving energized equipment
  - 3.3.10 Emergency Medical Responses requiring protection to prevent exposure to Blood Borne Pathogens.
- 3.4 When responding to other than EMS Incidents, members shall don all protective clothing prior to mounting the apparatus for response. This applies to all members of the apparatus crew, including the Driver / Operator who are only required to don protective pants and boots.
- 3.5 The wearing of helmets when riding in apparatus is optional for drivers, personnel in the aid units, and in any seated position with limited headroom. As soon as the apparatus has been exited from these positions, helmets shall be donned.
- 3.6 At no time shall members be permitted to "suit up" without being secured by a seat belt while riding in/on a moving vehicle.
- 3.7 Company Officers, when out of quarters, shall have an apparatus come to a complete legal stop and have all members don appropriate PPE before the apparatus responds.
- 3.8 Personnel responding in personal or staff vehicles may don their PPE after their arrival at the emergency scene. This does not preclude them from wearing their protective clothing while driving these vehicles if they so desire, or if the need arises.
- 3.9 While on EMS incidents, all members shall wear whatever protective clothing is required to afford complete personnel protection. Medical Examination Gloves shall be used during all incidents involving patient contact. For all medical conditions where airborne contaminations are possible, (Flu, T.B., Biological agents, for example) universal body substance isolations shall be used during all incidents involving patient contact. This includes splash shield, NIOSH N-95 masks, and gloves.
- 3.10 When operating forcible entry equipment and tools at an emergency incident, full protective clothing shall be worn.
- 3.11 PPE shall be worn by members during overhaul operations. Self-Contained Breathing apparatus may be exempt only if air monitoring substantiates there are no toxic substances or fumes present.
- 3.12 Fire Investigators shall wear protective clothing and protective equipment to provide protection from the hazards to which they may likely be exposed. Such protective clothing and protective equipment shall be suitable for the tasks the investigator is expected to perform.

expected to perform.

- 3.13** The face shield on helmets is not considered primary eye protection but shall be utilized at any time the need for eye protection is present.

- 3.14** Gloves shall be worn when engaged on fire fighting overhaul, training with hose and ladders, when using hand or power tools, and any situation where injuries to the hands are likely to occur.

- 3.15** Rings and similar jewelry may cause injury in many situations. These items should not be worn while on duty.

- 3.16** Clothing with reflective trim or safety vests shall be worn when operating near moving traffic.