

Washington Township Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure

Division 100: Administration
Section 109: Uniform Requirements & Appearance Standards
Subject 109.02: P.P.E. and Related Clothing
Supersedes: Procedure 308.02 (2/11/09)



Approved By: 

Date: April 22, 2010 Date Last Reviewed:
Page: 1 of 3

PURPOSE:

To assure the safety and well being of members, and the persons they come in contact with, this procedure details the requirements and steps necessary for the use of EMS, technical rescue and structural firefighting personal protective equipment (PPE) and related clothing.

RESPONSIBILITY:

The Department will provide each member the appropriate equipment and clothing to provide protection from (1) emergency medical services hazards, (2) technical rescue hazards, and (3) firefighting hazards to which the member is likely to be exposed. Such protective equipment and clothing will be suitable for the tasks that the member is expected to perform. Likewise, you must use the equipment and clothing for their intended purpose. Further, you must become familiar with, adhere to, and remain refreshed and familiar in the correct use and application of this procedure.

PROCEDURES:

General

You must wear or have in place necessary elements of PPE when:

- About to enter a hazardous or potentially hazardous environment;
- Threatened with rapidly entering a hazardous environment (e.g., through collapse, collision);
- In an I.D.L.H. (immediately dangerous to life and health), hazardous or potentially hazardous environment;
- Exiting a hazardous or potentially hazardous environment;
- Operating, and in the area where operating power, hydraulic, pneumatic and/or forcible entry tools are deployed;
- Standing, walking and/or working upon any parking lot, street, road or freeway;
- Required by this or another procedure.

Elements of the EMS, technical rescue, and structural firefighting protective ensemble may consist of (1) Duty Uniform, (2) Seasonal Uniform-Officers and Recruit, (3) jumpsuit, (4) structural firefighting equipment/clothing consisting of a protective coat, (5) protective trousers, (6) helmet, (7) protective hood, (8) gloves, (9) boots, (10) personal respirator (including SCBA face piece, 40mm chin style adapter and HE/P100 filter), (11) eye protection, (12) safety vest, (13) personal floatation device, (14) specially designated head protection, (15) specially designated hand protection, (16) personal identification name tags, and other elements defined and listed in the Department *Exposure Control Plan/Infection Control Policy for Washington Township Fire Department* (copies at each fire station).

Subject 109.02: P.P.E. and Related Clothing

Date: April 22, 2010

Page: 2 of 4

EMS

You must wear issued PPE elements when necessary to provide protection from the physical, environmental, airborne, and bloodborne hazards encountered during EMS and rescue operations. Established procedures and pre-hospital health care industry standards for body substance isolation must be strictly followed and complied with during the donning and doffing of personal protective equipment. Properly and fully don protective garments prior to implementing patient care.

Technical Rescue

Elements of the technical rescue protective ensemble (TRPE) must meet or exceed Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 4123:1-21-07(H), personal protective clothing and equipment for technical rescue, industry and nationally recognized standards, at the time of their purchase. Depending upon the technical rescue discipline (e.g. water rescue, vehicle extrication, etc.); the TRPE may vary widely as certain equipment may be used/required at one site, but not at another. The TRPE may be a combination or assembly of multiple elements that are individually compliant with nationally recognized requirements and that you must wear to provide limited protection from the physical, environmental, thermal, chemical flash fire, chemical splash, and bloodbourne hazards encountered during technical rescue operations.

Wear helmet with eye protection and gloves when using/operating hand tools, power tools, hydraulic tools, pneumatic tools, rope, ladders, or any other equipment/article that is reasonably expected to cause hand injuries. Wear helmets during all technical rescue incidents to provide head protection and prevent head injuries. You may remove your helmet when in rehabilitation mode or when directed by a supervisor.

Properly and fully don protective garments and equipment prior to boarding apparatus or vehicles for an incident response. If an alarm is received while an apparatus is out of quarters and TRPE are not in place, wait until you arrive at the incident scene before donning your TRPE.

Structural Firefighting

Elements of the protective ensemble will meet or exceed Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 4123:1-21-02, personal protective clothing and equipment for structural fire fighting, industry and nationally recognized standards, at the time of their purchase.

You must wear any and all elements of the protective ensemble when required to provide protection from injury and/or death. Wear helmet with eye protection and gloves when operating hand tools, power tools, hydraulic tools, pneumatic tools, hose, ladders, or any other equipment that is reasonably expected to cause hand injuries. Wear helmets, including tightened chin strap, to provide head protection and prevent head injuries. You may remove your helmet when in rehabilitation mode or when directed by a supervisor. If you are riding in jump seats or unenclosed areas of apparatus you must wear a helmet at all times.

Properly and fully don protective coats, trousers and boots prior to boarding apparatus or vehicles for an incident response. Drivers are not required to don protective coats while driving. If an alarm is

Subject 109.02: P.P.E. and Related Clothing

Date: April 22, 2010

Page: 3 of 4

received while the apparatus is out of quarters and protective ensembles are not in place, wait until you arrive at the incident scene before donning protective ensembles.

The Department provides a substantial, high quality boot for firefighting that is versatile for other uses and has undergone years of scrutiny and evaluation. Should members choose to purchase an alternative leather boot for firefighting instead of wearing the issued boots, the Department will cost-share. The cost sharing involves the Department paying an amount equal in value to the cost of Department issued boots and the member paying the difference.¹ If within one year of initial hiring you are terminated or resign, you may keep the boots. However, you must reimburse the Department the cost of the boots the Department paid.

The alternative leather boots are constructed of leather material and must meet the design and performance criteria of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1971. In addition, the following conditions apply to the alternative leather boots.

1. The Department Quartermaster maintains a listing of boots that meet the firefighting requirements and standards for firefighting.
2. The Department Quartermaster must approve the use of each pair of alternative leather boots prior to their use.
3. Alternative leather boots must be the pull-on style with no zipper or lace closures present.
4. Alternative leather boots must be at least fourteen inches in height as measured according to the NFPA Standard.
5. Alternative leather boots must be maintained in the same manner as issued boots, but with additional attention to contamination of the porous material, cleanliness of sewn areas and abrasions of the outer shell material.
6. If damaged during the performance of duties, the owner, not the Department, bears the cost responsibility of repairing or replacing the boots. Cost may also include the expense of testing to determine if the alternative leather boots still meet the performance criteria of the NFPA Standard.
7. Alternative leather boots are subject to annual gear inspections. During these inspections, or as necessary to assure member safety, the boots will be closely examined to determine:
 - a. No liquids penetrate to the interior after one hour.
 - b. No metal parts protrude to the interior or exterior of the boot.
 - c. No excessive damage to the toecap exists, especially through abrasion or actual compression.
 - d. Slip resistance does not exceed the NFPA performance standard.
 - e. Required manufacturer's labels are still attached and legible.
8. An Officer may deny the use of alternative leather boots due to excessive wear, contamination, or other reasons that may render the boots unsafe.

Members are not to wear electronic equipment that may interfere with the use and benefit of personal protective equipment. Restrictions for jewelry that can compromise safety are given in Procedure 109.01 – *Uniforms*.

¹ For example, if the issued boots cost \$140.00 and the alternative leather boots cost \$260.00, the Department will pay \$140.00 and the member pays the difference of \$120.

Subject 109.02: P.P.E. and Related Clothing

Date: April 22, 2010

Page: 4 of 4

Any element of non-disposable PPE that is potentially contaminated or un-cleaned after use must not be worn and will be cleaned immediately in accordance with policies for Care and Cleaning of PPE. Do not take PPE into living areas of a fire station - offices, day rooms, kitchens, bunk/dormitory rooms, clean rooms, exercise rooms or training rooms. You must keep all elements of non-disposable PPE clean and ready for use in accordance with procedures for Care and Cleaning of PPE (see Procedure 504.02).

You must immediately report the need to replace elements of the protective ensemble that are found to be improperly sized, damaged or otherwise defective to the point of voiding their intended protection. When a critical need exists that requires **immediate replacement**, contact the Quartermaster or Shift Commander. They will make every attempt to accommodate the need and satisfy the requirement to keep PPE in place and usable. All other requests for PPE are to be completed using a Form 12E, *PPE and Uniform Replacement/Repair Needs*. When the form is legibly and accurately completed, send to the Quartermaster so a mutually acceptable meeting time and date can be established. Members are not simply to "drop in" when convenient to acquire or replace PPE.

You must subject PPE to at least an annual inspection in accordance with established policy (see Procedure 504.03). The inspection will consist of at least the elements identified on the approved Department inspection forms. Members may request other inspections of their PPE when it may have been subjected to circumstances or extraordinary conditions that may render it damaged or unusable.

You are not to remove, displace, damage, destroy, carry off or impede any safety device or safeguard furnished or provided for use in the work environment that is a part of furnished PPE. Furthermore, do not add to, revise, sew, glue, adhere, embellish, remove, cut, deface, cover or otherwise alter any elements of PPE, unless previously approved through the chain of command.

References:

Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety & Hygiene
Ohio Administrative Code, Chapter 4123:1-21 Firefighting

National Fire Protection Association

Standard 1500 – *Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program* 2007 edition

Standard 1670 – *Operations & Training for Technical Rescue Incidents* 2004 edition

Standard 1971 – *Protective Ensemble for Structural Firefighting and Proximity Firefighting* 2007 edition

Washington Township Fire Department

Procedure 109.01 – *Uniforms*

Procedure 504.01 – *Department Issued Equipment*

Procedure 504.02 – *Care & Cleaning of Firefighting PPE*

Procedure 504.03 – *Inspection of Firefighting PPE*

Infection Control Policy for Washington Township Fire Department/Exposure Control Plan