

SOG #: <b>200.2</b>
Approved: 3/16/11
Revised: <b>4/27/15</b>
Revision #: <b>Initial</b>



*Akron Fire Company, Inc.*  
**STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**  
 Approved by: Peter West Fire Chief

**200.2**  
**Cleaning and Laundering of Personal Protective Equipment**

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**PURPOSE:** To maintain clean, uncontaminated PPE to ensure the safety of Akron firefighters by keeping them safe from harmful toxins and carcinogens, as well as to extend the life of the PPE following NFPA and the manufacturer’s recommendations.

**SCOPE:** This policy covers all personnel of the fire department that wears personal or department issued PPE.

**ENFORCEMENT:** Failure to comply will result in progressive discipline in accordance to the constitution and by- laws of the Akron Fire Company Inc.

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Policy: It is important to maintain the cleanliness of protective garments. Soiled or contaminated garments are hazardous to firefighters as they contain carcinogens or other toxic substances. Akron firefighters **MUST** keep their PPE clean and maintained as set forth in the garment labels.

When members PPE, personally owned or issued becomes dirty from general wear or contaminated, they are required to take the garments O.O.S for cleaning and laundering A.S.A.P, following the manufacturer’s recommendations and those set forth in NPFA 1851.

Akron FD personnel should **NEVER** take any contaminated PPE home with them. When the PPE becomes dirty or contaminated, the PPE must be taken to the basement for washing.

**WASHING PPE IN FRONT LOAD WASHER**

1. Take everything out of pockets.
2. Separate the inner liner from the outer liner.
3. Fasten all closures, hooks, zippers on outer shell jacket and pants.
4. Wash Outer shells separately from the inner shells.
5. If members need to wash inner shells, the shells **MUST** be turned inside out.
6. Nomex hoods, glove and helmet liners all need to be laundered when they become contaminated or dirty.
7. Follow the operating instructions attached to the front load washer.
8. Fill out the log sheet on top of the washer to maintain a record of the cleaning and maintaining the PPE. The log sheets will remain on the washer at all times

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**DRYING PPE**

- Air drying is the most appropriate and preferred method for the drying of the PPE.
1. DO NOT DRY PPE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
  2. Place the garments in an area that is well ventilated.

**CONTRACT CLEANING**

All PPE that is exposed to hazardous materials, bodily fluids, or any other contaminants that otherwise deem not cleanable by the department's washer, will be sent out to a contract cleaning service like Turn Out Express for the proper decontamination and cleaning of the PPE.

**INSPECTION**

- After PPE is fully dry, the members **MUST** inspect every piece of garment or PPE that was laundered. **ONLY** upon a successful inspection can the PPE be put back together and placed back into service.
- Upon inspection of the PPE the members see's any damage to the PPE, that member **MUST** keep the PPE O.O.S and notify the Officer in charge of gear **IMMEDIATELY**.

**References**

**NFPA 1851**

**Globe manufacturing recommendations**

**Morning Pride manufacturing recommendations**

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