

SOG #:	<b>200.1</b>
Approved:	<b>03/16/11</b>
Revised:	<b>4/27/15</b>
Revision #:	<b>Initial</b>



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

## **200.1**

### **Wearing PPE**

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#### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this procedure is to assure that all personnel are prepared to commence fire suppression or rescue operations immediately upon arrival at an emergency scene while maintaining the highest level of personal safety for all personnel.

#### **SCOPE:**

This procedure shall apply to all personnel operating at the scene of any emergency incident or training exercise.

#### **ENFORCEMENT:**

As with any safety procedure, primary responsible for adherence to this procedure rests with each individual. Company Officers are responsible for enforcement of this procedure within their respective companies. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests solely on the Company Officer who bears full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

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#### **DEFINITION:**

For the purpose of this procedure full protective equipment shall consist of helmet with face shield or Bourkes and goggles, Nomex hood, turnout coat, turnout pants, boots, and gloves. All equipment is to be properly fastened and closed with Nomex hood on, coat collar turned up, and helmet ear flaps turned down.

All equipment shall be issued OR approved by the fire company. Alterations to any equipment, such as the removal of a coat or pants liners, are prohibited.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Protective equipment shall be worn by all personnel according to the following guidelines:

- Under no circumstances shall any aspect of personal safety be sacrificed in order to increase the speed of emergency operations. Emergency operations shall not commence until all involved personnel are wearing all necessary equipment.
- All firefighting personnel shall wear full protective equipment when responding to any type of alarm indicative of a fire, potential fire, explosion, potential explosion, auto accident, or release of any type of hazardous material. All protective equipment should be put on prior to boarding the apparatus. Full protective equipment is optional for drivers, ambulance personnel and commanding officers during the response.
- If an alarm is received while the apparatus is out of quarters all personnel shall put on full protective equipment upon arrival at the emergency scene and prior to beginning any emergency operations.
- Full protective equipment shall be worn by all personnel operating power tools, hydraulic tools, or forcible entry tools. Full protective equipment is also required for all personnel in an area where any of these tools are being used. Goggles and face shield are to be worn when operating these tools.
- Personnel operating at the scene of an EMS or rescue incident shall wear whatever protective equipment is necessary to assure personal safety during the incident.

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- Gloves shall be worn at all times when hand tools, power tools, hose, ladders, or any other equipment is used that could cause injuries to the hands. This shall include all work details, maintenance operations, and training exercises.
- Helmets with chin strap in place shall be worn by all personnel operating at incidents where there is a possibility of tools; equipment or debris from above may fall. This would include any time personnel are operating above or below grade such as during trench rescue or high angle rope rescue situations.
- Damage to personal protective equipment shall be immediately reported to a Chief Officer. The Chief Officer shall inspect the damaged article and order it replaced or repaired. Equipment damaged such that its protective ability is impaired shall not be used.
- Incident Commanders may use their discretion to determine the appropriate level of protective equipment required for personnel operating at incidents where no specific guidelines have been established. In all cases personnel shall be required to wear all protective equipment necessary to protect against all foreseeable hazards.

**ASSIGNING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

All personal protective equipment shall be assigned by a Firematic Chief. At that time, the person receiving the personal protective equipment will sign the appropriate form(s) stating that the equipment has been received.

**EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS:**

Once a year, Company Officers shall personally inspect all protective equipment for each fire fighter assigned to their company. The inspection will assure that all personnel have all necessary equipment and that it is in usable condition.

**PURPOSE:**

1. To provide a guideline for the wearing of protective clothing by members of the Akron Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Drivers operating apparatus on an emergency call may drive with their turnout gear donned or doffed.
2. Drivers should don their gear as quickly as possible once on location at the scene.
3. Officers responding to an emergency on the apparatus shall wear their turnout gear while responding to the incident. They may choose to remove it on the way back to the station.
4. Firefighters responding to an emergency shall wear full turnout gear minus the helmet while responding to the incident. Firefighters may choose to remove some of their gear while on the scene with permission of the incident commander and/or the safety officer. (i.e. brush fires, while in the rehab area ect.)
5. When returning to the station all firefighters will use their own discretion about wearing full turnout gear. The only exception is when riding on Engine-1. Firefighters riding Engine-1 in the jump seats will wear their full turnout gear.
6. Any member who fails to obey these rules will be dealt with on an individual basis by the Fire Chief.

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**PURPOSE:**

This policy establishes the minimum requirements for the use of personal protective clothing and equipment for this department personnel when operating in a hazard zone or IDLH environment. This policy is written to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 29 CFR 1910.132 and NFPA 1500, 2007 edition.

**SCOPE:**

This policy applies to all members of the Fire Department.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Hazard Zone**

The Hazard Zone is defined as any area that requires the use of SCBA or in which a firefighter is at risk of becoming lost, trapped, or injured by the environment or structure. This would include entering a structure reported to be on fire, operating in close proximity to the structure during exterior fire attack, cause and origin investigation, confined space, trench rescue, ect.

**IDLH**

An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life, would cause irreversible adverse health effects that would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

**POLICY:**

It is policy of the Fire Department to provide personnel with the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. This protective clothing and equipment shall be used whenever an individual is exposed or potentially exposed to workplace hazards. The protective clothing and equipment purchased by the department shall meet or exceed the appropriate NFPA standard(s) and department specifications at the time of the purchase. Each individual is responsible to utilize and maintain their protective clothing and equipment consistent with the manufacturer's instructions and department policy or guidelines.

Authorized items and modification

Protective clothing shall not be modified in any manner without approval from the department. Personal items such as hand lights, wire cutters, small tools, ect. May be utilized provide they do not reduce the level of protection provided by issued clothing/equipment.

Required level of PPE

Personnel shall not remove their protective clothing until such time that their company officer or Incident Commander (IC) determines that such protection is no longer necessary. If operating conditions warrant, company officers may increase or decrease the required level of PPE but the responsibility to protect their personnel from injury remains with the officer.

Incident Commanders will determine the level of PPE in those situations not addressed by this policy or where exceptions to the policy appear necessary.

Eye protection

It is each individual's responsibility to identify situations that pose the potential for eye injury, and to utilize the appropriate level of protection. The primary and only permissible forms of eye protection are either the SCBA face piece, goggles, or helmet installed face shield. Eye protection shall be used when there is a potential of flying debris, airborne particles, spraying/splashing of hazardous fluids or any other situation which may present the possibility of an eye injury. This includes when operating hand or power/hydraulic tools, whenever working above head level

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When engaged in EMS operations, EMS safety goggles shall be worn as part of universal precautions.

Storage of PPE

Protective clothing and equipment shall be stored in the appropriate location at each station. Protective clothing shall not be worn or stored in the living or office areas of the fire station. This includes the kitchen, dayroom, bunkroom, washrooms, or other areas.

Cleaning, maintenance and inspection

**It is the responsibility of the company officer to ensure that their assigned personnel maintain clean turnout gear.** Frequent cleaning may be required based in exposure to ire products or blood born contamination.

- REFER TO THE CLEANING AND LAUNDERING SOG 200.2

Reference:

- NFPA 1500, *Fire Department Occupational Safety & Health Program*, 2007 edition
- OSHA: 29 CFR 1910.132

Resources:

NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation Reports

- Career Fire Fighter Dies After Being Trapped in a Roof Collapse During Overhaul of a Vacant/Abandoned Building-Michigan
- Volunteer Fire Fighter Dies While Lost in Residential Structure Fire-Alabama
- Four Career Fire Fighters Injured While Providing Interior Exposure Protection at a Row House Fire-District of Columbia
- Two Career Fire Fighters Die While Making Initial Attack on a Restaurant Fire-Massachusetts

Firefighter Close Cals.Com-Weekly Fire Drills:

- Basic Skills Volume 20-231 Donning PPE
- PPe Use (Volume 8-91)
- Protective clothing (Volume 5-49)