



Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

Policy Title:	Personal Protective Equipment Inspection		
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a program for both structural and proximity fire fighting protective coats, pants, hoods, helmets, gloves and boots to reduce the safety and health risks associated with these items when they are poorly maintained, contaminated or damaged. This policy complies with *NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, 2008 Edition*.

POLICY

Records will be maintained for all structural protective clothing in use or in reserve. Each member is responsible for the daily inspection of their assigned gear to ensure its condition. All structural protective clothing will be inspected annually by company officers. This annual inspection will be documented and reviewed by the uniform officer of the department.

When PPE is soiled or contaminated, it shall be cleaned and decontaminated. Structural PPE must not be worn inside the fire station living quarters. Structural PPE will not be taken home or laundered at locations other than the fire station.

Annual Inspection

The annual inspection of gear shall be performed by trained company officers each August.

Structural PPE will be inspected for the following:

- Soiling
- Contamination
- Physical damage (rips, tears, cuts, missing hardware, thermal damage)
- Damage or missing reflective trim
- Un-sewn seams or stitches
- Correct assembly of shell, liner, and Drag Rescue Device

A proper inspection form will be filled out and submitted after annual inspection

Cleaning and Decontamination

The routine cleaning of PPE is the responsibility of each member who is issued protective clothing. Routine cleaning must be performed after each significant use. The purpose of routine cleaning is to remove surface contaminants before they have time to “set in” to the garment.

PPE clothing should be routinely cleaned as follows:

1. Locate and read the manufacturer’s label for instructions on cleaning and drying
2. Brush off dry debris
3. Rinse off other debris with a garden hose
4. Brush areas of the garment with a soft bristle brush where necessary, rinsing afterwards
5. Members shall launder one of their issued Nomex hoods each month on the day that coincides with their shift’s company officer meeting. The hoods should be rotated in order to ensure an even amount of wear for each.

On occasion, structural PPE will need advanced cleaning using the washer-extractor. When using the washer-extractor:

1. Remove all items from pockets
2. Separate the liner from the shell
3. Remove the drag rescue device from the coat
4. Secure all closures, pocket flaps, collars, hardware, etc
5. Air dry or use bunker gear drying machine
6. Do not dry PPE in the sun

Additional guidance on PPE maintenance and cleaning can be found in RFD SOP 314 – Protective Clothing Maintenance and Replacement.

Storage

While members are on duty, personal protective clothing that is not being worn must not be placed in direct or indirect sunlight. Each fire station has a designated area for staging personal protective clothing for use. This area meets the conditions for proper storage. If personal protective clothing must be transported in a trunk or vehicle with other equipment, it must be placed in a gear bag to avoid damage.