

CITY OF BEND FIRE & RESCUE
POLICY, PROCEDURE, AND INSTRUCTION

Author:
Date:
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Reviewed By:
D. Root
Reviewed Date:
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SECTION: 1900 - Safety

TITLE: Personal Protective Equipment

NUMBER: 1900-006

A. POLICY

- 1) The underlying philosophy of this policy is that safety permeates everything we do. All personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased by the department shall meet or exceed applicable standards contained in the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). This policy establishes the minimum procedures for the use, inspection, care, and maintenance of personal protective equipment in accordance with, but not limited to, applicable standards contained in OAR, OR-OSHA, and the NFPA.

B. DEFINITIONS

- 1) The following definitions establish the minimum PPE used during specific operations/activities.
- 2) **Structural Firefighting:** NFPA-compliant turnout coat, pants, boots, hood, helmet, gloves, SCBA, and portable radio.
- 3) **EMS:** NFPA-compliant eyewear, medical gloves, and portable radio.
- 4) **Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC):** May wear NFPA 1951 compliant TecGen 51 PPE at the Company Officer's discretion on non-fire incidents.
 - Include NFPA 1851-compliant gloves and eyewear if extrication is underway.
 - Include NFPA 1851 compliant hood if risk of fire is present.
 - NFPA 1851 compliant turnout coat, pants, boots, helmet, reflective vest, and portable radio if there is a possibility of the vehicle on fire.
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- 5) **Fires Involving Brush / Grass / Tree:** NFPA 1977 compliant uniform pants as an inner-layer and fire resistive pants as an outer-layer *or* wildland compliant station pant with cuff closure, coat, gloves, footwear, helmet, eyewear, fire shelter, and portable radio. May wear TecGen 51 NFPA 1977 Compliant PPE at the Company Officer's discretion.
- 6) **Hazardous Materials – Operations Level:**
 - **Level "B"** - Level "B" suit, helmet, over-gloves, over-boots, SCBA, and portable radio.

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- **Level "C"** - Tyvek suit, helmet, gloves, over-gloves, over-boots, SCBA, and portable radio.
- **Level "D"** - NFPA-compliant turnout coat, pants, boots, hood, helmet, gloves, SCBA, and portable radio.

7) **Apparatus and Station cleaning** – While detailing apparatus and routine station cleaning, follow department cleaning product SDS for the proper level of PPE (eye protection, N95 respirator, and medical gloves).

C. GUIDELINES

- 1) **Personal Protective Equipment:** When possible, personnel are strongly encouraged to don the appropriate level of PPE before responding. In addition to the minimum PPE outlined in section 2, the following PPE guidelines will be adhered to. (Note: company officers can modify section 3* guidelines if such modification enhances the safety envelope).
- 2) **EMS Response Involving Extraordinary Exposure:** Respiratory protection, splash protection, and footwear coverings will be worn commensurate with the degree of exposure.
- 3) **Special Operations:** The specific discipline and/or tasks that personnel are engaged in shall dictate the minimum PPE for Special Operations activities. Minimum PPE will be in accordance with existing OAR, OR-OSHA, and the NFPA. May wear NFPA 1951 compliant TecGen 51 PPE at IC's discretion.
- 4) **Drill Ground Training:** Personnel shall wear a level of PPE commensurate with the nature of the training. The same level of PPE will be worn in training as on an emergency call. May wear TecGen 51 PPE for non-fire related training per the discretion of the Training Captain or Company Officer to limit PFAS exposure in Firefighting PPE.
 - Wildland PPE (NFPA 1977) shall be worn in place of structural PPE during Motor Vehicle Extraction Training until the Department Line Personnel are issued TecGen 51 gear.
- 5) **Fire Investigation/Cause Determination:** Personnel shall wear a level of PPE commensurate with the hazard and in accordance with NFPA 921.
- 6) **Fire Prevention Activities:** Personnel shall wear a level of PPE commensurate with the fire prevention activity they are engaged in (i.e., construction site inspections, etc.).
- 7) **Traffic Zone Activities:** Personnel working in or near motor vehicle traffic will wear their department-issued high visibility reflective vest.
- 8) **Water Activities:** Personnel shall wear a personal flotation device (PFD) and helmet when working within 10 feet of the water.

D. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- 1) **Respiratory Protection:** Reference PPI 1500-006

- Personnel will not work in contaminated atmospheres, including active

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overhaul operations, without wearing an SCBA.

- While personnel are working in contaminated atmospheres, the Incident Commander will ensure that necessary monitoring is occurring.
 - All SCBA / SABA maintenance and testing is the responsibility of the Respiratory Protection Program Manager.
 - Fit testing shall be conducted annually.
- 2) **Eye Protection:** During suppression activities, cutting operations, overhaul, or any other type of operation with the potential for eye damage, personnel wear NFPA-compliant eye protection.
- 3) **Hearing Protection:** Mobile radio headsets will be used in emergency response vehicles. Hearing protection will also be used when personnel are exposed to other noise-producing devices/activities. Personnel shall not wear hearing protection where such use creates an additional hazard for the user.
- 4) **Helmets:** Personnel shall receive NFPA-approved helmets specific to their discipline. **Traditional Helmets:** Employees may purchase, at their own expense, a traditional-style helmet for use on duty. If an employee misplaces or damages their traditional style helmet, they are responsible for all costs of repair/replacement. Employees must put their department-issued helmets into service until their traditional style helmet is repaired or replaced. Replacement will also be the employee's responsibility in the event of promotion, although an appropriate department-issued helmet will be provided per normal practice.
- 5) **Maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment:** We rely on our protective equipment (PPE) to provide us with a reasonable barrier from the hazards of our occupation. This protective equipment must be maintained at the highest level possible to provide the protection required for safe operation in hazardous environments. Directions for cleaning PPE are posted in each station's laundry room.
- Personnel are responsible for the care and cleaning of PPE.
 - Turnouts or other protective equipment contaminated by unknown materials or materials determined to be a particular hazard shall be handled according to hazardous materials protocols. A special biohazard cleanser will be provided to clean any contaminated clothing/turnouts.
 - A 10% bleach solution can be run through the Clothes washing machines, on rinse, after decontamination of clothing. No Bleach shall be used in PPE Extractors.
 - Personnel should inspect and clean their PPE at least every six months and report any problems to their supervisor.
 - PPE should be kept clean and dry and placed in the appropriate storage bag with the zipper closed at the end of each shift.

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- Contaminated PPE shall be isolated and cleaned according to OSHA and manufacturers' guidelines.
- Turnout clothing shall be cleaned in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines. Cleaning instructions are posted in each laundry room.
- The department shall provide for cleaning soiled or contaminated PPE at no cost to personnel.
- Helmets and liners may be washed in mild detergent and air-dried. Helmets with stubborn dirt or stains may be cleaned with ethyl alcohol, automobile wax/cleaner, or mild scouring powder. Contact the PPE manager for replacement helmet liners, padding, and Nomex neck shrouds.
- Two Advanced Cleanings are required per NFPA 1851 guidelines. Advanced cleaning includes washing in a station washer/PPE extractor or CO2 Carbon Dioxide cleaning facilitated by the department. The department will coordinate once a year to send PPE off to ISP for advanced CO2 cleaning and repairs.
- SCBA masks shall be cleaned according to manufacturers' guidelines. If available, goggles, SCBA / SABA lenses, and helmet shields may be treated with approved anti-fog agents.

6) **Repair of Personal Protective Equipment:**

- PPE requiring repair shall be cleaned, placed out of service, and forwarded to the PPE Program Manager for repair. The department will repair damaged PPE in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.
- Respiratory protection equipment requiring repair shall be placed out of service and forwarded to the Respiratory Protection Program Manager for necessary repairs.
- PFDs, dry suits, wet suits, portable radios, etc., requiring repair shall be placed out of service and forwarded to Logistics.
- No modifications shall be made to any safety equipment without the expressed consent of the Uniform Committee and the individual's Shift Commander.

7) **Storage:** Protective clothing shall be stored in department-issued gear bags with the zipper closed except when in use or when in need of drying. At no time shall turnouts or other protective equipment (except for duty boots) be lying directly on the bay floor.

8) **Replacement:** The individual shall make a written request using the Department Uniform/Protective Equipment form for the replacement of lost, stolen, damaged, or worn items. The Shift Commander will coordinate the issue of temporary replacement gear and the collection of the damaged equipment for repair.

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- 9) **Retirement of Personal Protective Equipment:** Any damage and/or excessive wear that will compromise the integrity of any PPE shall cause such equipment to be retired from service. PPE shall also be retired from service in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines. NFPA 1851 guidelines dictate that gear beyond the 10-year life span from the manufacturer date should be retired from service. PPE may be kept beyond the 10-year date as a second set of backup PPE, if still serviceable, and until an in-date second set can be purchased and acquired.

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