



SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT			
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	ARTICLE: II	SOP: 2102	
	SECTION: 2100 SAFETY		
	SUBJECT: UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR STRUCTURAL AND WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING		
DATE APPROVED:	07/21/2022		
APPROVED:			

Purpose: It is the intent of this district to provide the maximum level of protection to its personnel by assuring that each employee is provided with approved protective clothing. This procedure governs the minimum requirements.


Scope: This procedure is to be adhered to by all personnel engaged in firefighting and other hazardous conditions. Failure to abide by these requirements may result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, as well as his/her immediate supervisor.

Procedure:

These procedures establish minimum requirements for personal protective clothing and equipment for firefighters when exposed to the hazards of firefighting activity and take precedence over any other safety order of the division with which they are inconsistent.

General Requirements:


- Personal protective clothing and equipment specified in these sections shall be provided and used whenever such employees are required to work in a hazardous environment that may be encountered during firefighting activities or under similar conditions during training activities.
- The employee shall assure the availability, maintenance, and use of all protective clothing and equipment in accordance with these sections.
- Employees shall wear or utilize appropriate personal protective clothing and equipment when directed to work in a hazardous environment until such time as the officer in charge determines that such protection is no longer required.
- Personal protective clothing and equipment that has become damaged or otherwise defective to the point of voiding its intended protection shall be brought to the attention of the company officer and removed from service.

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- Firefighters engaged in emergency activities requiring special protective techniques and equipment shall be trained in the required techniques and provided with the necessary protective equipment.

Requirements for *Structural firefighting protective ensemble*:

1. The district shall require that all elements of the protective ensemble for use as personal protective equipment shall meet or exceed the specification/ requirements, including the testing, and labeling requirements, as found in NFPA Standard 1971 at the time of purchase.
2. Specific to helmets and related eye protection requirements. Each employee will be issued 1 NFPA approved structure helmet. All structure helmets will provide eye protection. Approved shields/goggles are supplied by the district as part of the helmet ensemble. Bourks (flip down shields) may supplement with the provision that approved goggles are permanently attached to the helmet so as to fulfill the eye protection requirement of NFPA 1971.
3. All items/accessories attached to the firefighter ensemble must be of such, that ensemble certifications or warranties are not impacted by use of the item/accessory.
4. All personnel will be issued two sets of PPE including turnout coat/pant, hood, gloves and boots but only one structure helmet with approved eye protection will be issued.
5. The primary set will not exceed 5 years from date of manufacture and the second set (backup) will not exceed 10 years from date of manufacture. At the 5 year mark the primary set will now become the second set (backup) and the second set (backup) will be removed from service.
6. Hoods, gloves and boots will be replaced on an as needed bases after inspection per the company officer (Captain or BC) determine that they are no longer suitable for service.
7. SVFD recognizes firefighting activates are physically demanding and requires PPE that focuses on a high level of protection, ergonomic fit, metabolic stress reduction, and durability.

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8. SVFD requires PPE thermal layers in the arms and legs to resist absorbing excess moisture. This reduces stress to firefighters by caring less weight and faster drying times of PPE.
9. SVFD requires PPE to have vented reflective trim. This allows more area of the garment to release build up heat stored in the garment reducing heat stress to the firefighter.
10. Personnel who purchase their own PPE must have it approved by the Fire Chief or their designee to ensure it meets NFPA 1971 requirements. This will be completed prior to equipment being put into service.

Requirements for *Protective clothing for wildland firefighting*

1. The district shall require that all protective clothing/equipment for wildland firefighting, including shelters, meet or exceed the specifications/ Requirements, including testing and labeling requirements, as found in NFPA Standard 1977 at the time of purchase.
2. The District issued duty/tactical pants will be the pants used for all wildland incidents. Each individual will be issued two pants, two coats/jackets, two gloves, web gear with new age shelter and helmet with shroud, goggles and chin strap,