

Policy Number: 2019-019

Effective Date: 05/01/2019

Last Review Date: _____

Waterloo Vol Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING

Scope

This policy applies to all members required to work in hazardous environments. It has been developed to establish guidelines for the use of protective clothing and other personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of illness, injury, or death that might result from a member's exposure to a hazardous environment.

General

- Each member shall wear protective clothing and use personal protective equipment for the hazards to which they are exposed.
- Each member shall properly maintain the protective clothing and personal protective equipment issued to them and that are carried on the apparatus for their use.
- Any protective clothing or equipment that is found to be unsafe shall be removed from service immediately, and follow the proper channels for repair.

Structural Firefighting

- Members assigned to fight structural fires shall be issued protective clothing and personal protective equipment that comply with applicable standards and local requirements. These items shall include:
 - Helmet
 - Boots
 - Gloves
 - Coat
 - Pants with suspenders
 - SCBA Face piece
 - Hood
- No alterations shall be made to protective clothing without proper authorization.

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- Each member operating within a perimeter designated as hazardous by the incident safety officer shall wear full protective clothing in the prescribed manner. The incident safety officer shall determine when and if it is safe to remove some or all of the clothing or personal protective equipment.

Responsibilities

- Each member shall inspect protective clothing and personal protective equipment assigned to them on a regular basis and after each use.
- Officers shall be responsible to make periodic inspections of all protective clothing and personal protective equipment to ensure that they are being properly maintained and are functioning properly.
- The incident safety officer under the direction of the incident commander shall be responsible for ensuring that all of the members operating within a hazardous perimeter of an incident are properly attired and using appropriate protective clothing and equipment. Any member who is in violation of this procedure shall be ordered to promptly leave the hazardous area.
- The member shall wash their protective equipment when soiled.