

SOG 500. – Personal Protective Equipment

500.1 PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for personal protective equipment and its use.

500.2 GUIDELINES

1. Gear is issued to firefighters on an individual basis. In order to provide adequate protection turn out gear is distributed to personnel according to size as far as practical. The inventory and distribution of turn out gear is the responsibility of officer designated to hand out turn out gear.
2. All firefighters at the scene of a fire or incident shall wear full protective clothing, including at a minimum: turn out coat, bunker pants, firefighting boots, firefighting helmet, firefighting gloves, nomex hood, safety glasses, and ear protection. The color of the helmet will be determined by the amount of training and qualifications. White helmets are Chief Officers, red helmets are Line Officers, black helmets are interior firefighters that have met the training requirements, yellow helmets are Engineer/Support personnel, blue helmets are EMS/Rescue, and green helmets are Probationary / Junior members.
3. The intent of this is not to require that protective gear be worn at the scene of an incident where no immediate hazard exists. However, if protective gear is not worn, it is to be available for personnel.
4. For non-emergency functions, such as parades and other public service details, firefighters shall have protective gear available to them on the apparatus. Drivers may dispense with the wearing of gear while driving apparatus; however, they shall have all protective gear with them at all times. In addition, upon arrival on the scene, and prior to participation in any operations, the driver shall don the least appropriate level of protective gear: i.e. helmet, gloves, and vest.
5. In general, the IC will have the final decision on the level of protective clothing worn on all calls and trainings.
6. The wearing of turn out gear at some incidents may place the wearer in harm. Incidents of this type will include special protective clothing requirements within that particular SOG.

7. Turn out gear will remain available for service at all times. They may not be removed from the station without knowledge of a Chief Officer or training.
8. The engine room must be kept orderly at all times; all gear must be on the gear rack. All personnel will be assigned a space in the gear rack by the Chief. Any change of assigned space on the gear rack must be approved by the Chief and out of pure courtesy the members involved in any moving of gear will be notified in person. Any gear that is on the floor shall be locked up.
9. Turn out gear shall be cleaned after every structure fire that a firefighter has made an interior attack. Turn out gear also will be cleaned when dirty from every day calls. The washing machine will be provided by the fire company. When washing gear the liner shall be separate from the coat and pants. The liners washed and then coat and pants. Only use liquid soap in the washing machine.