

Chapter 9-8

Effective DRAFT

Standard Operating Guideline For **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)**

rev. 03/15/07

A. Purpose

This SOG summarizes information relating to the use and maintenance of PPE.

B. Scope

All suppression personnel are responsible for maintaining the clean, ready state of their PPE. Line officers are responsible for completing the periodic inspections as addressed herein. The Safety Equipment Officer (SEO) is responsible for ensuring that each firefighter has issued to them a properly fitting, safe set of PPE. The SEO is responsible for maintaining an adequate inventory of PPE to outfit each member, plus enough to immediately replace worn, contaminated, or damaged items on at least 10 complete sets.

C. Introduction

Each firefighter who is qualified to perform fire suppression shall be issued a complete set of PPE by the SEO. The following are the items that make up a set of PPE: **Helmet with face shield or goggles, Hood, Coat, Pants, Boots, Gloves.** Each of these items must meet or exceed requirements of the current edition of NFPA 1901 at the time of purchase, and must be maintained to meet the same standard.

Individuals may purchase and use their own PPE items provided the items meet or exceed PVFD specifications and relevant NFPA standards. Personal items damaged while in use with the PVFD will be repaired or replaced as if they were PVFD items, provided the damage was not intentional and the cost does not exceed normal price for purchase of a new PVFD supplied item.

D. Use of PPE

PPE issued by PVFD is intended for use only during PVFD sponsored events. This includes fires, training, or other activities at PVFD or where PVFD has been invited. Use of PVFD equipment for non-PVFD activities must be approved by one of the following: SEO, assistant chief, deputy chief, or chief.

Each firefighter's PPE is to be stored at the station, ready for use. This requirement is waived for persons staffing direct response vehicles, or with specific permission from a Chief Officer. Personnel shall not use any one else's PPE without their prior permission.

The following is a summary of instructions for care of PPE

D.1. Before the run:

1. Make sure all your gear is clean. Clean it in an approved washer as needed. Allow all items to dry thoroughly.
2. Store gear so that it is easy to put on in a hurry. Check it periodically to make sure it has no cuts, holes, breaks, etc. If an item is broken or missing, report it to the SEO immediately.
3. DO NOT store gear in direct sunlight, or air dry it in the sun!!!
4. For additional information, refer to the instruction sheet posted in the gear room or consult the SEO.

D.2. During the run:

1. Always use the right gear for the job. For structure fires, you MUST wear boots, pants, coat, hood, helmet, and SCBA until a PVFD officer tells you it is safe to wear less. Eye protection and exam gloves must be used during auto wrecks, in addition to other gear.
2. On all fire runs, you must be dressed with at least bunker pants and coat before getting in the truck. Helmets are not required to be worn in enclosed truck cabs.
3. You must have all gear on - including SCBA - within 10 seconds after you are asked to get off the truck at a fire.
4. SCBA masks should not be donned until you are at the location where you will need to go on air (usually the door to the building), to prevent fogging of the mask. You should be able to don the mask and be ready for entry in 10 seconds or less.
5. SCBA will be worn on all fire runs except field fires and rescues. The 2nd arriving engine at auto rescues will have SCBA on as they staff a fire safety hose line.
6. Avoid exposing yourself to unnecessary heat, flame, jagged edges, etc. that will damage your gear.
7. On EMS runs, each responder will wear at least a shirt, jacket, or hat that identifies them with the fire dept, long pants, and closed toe shoes. If a responder does not have that, they will wear turnout coat, pants or both as necessary. Exception is granted to off-duty personnel who arrive first on scene of an incident, *before* it is dispatched. In this case, the person shall not enter unsafe areas of the scene until they have the proper PPE to do so. All EMS work will be done wearing exam gloves. If an EMS scene contains other hazards that would pose a risk to a responder in normal clothing, additional PPE shall be used to protect from the hazards. Some examples are as follows:

<u>Hazard</u>	<u>Additional PPE needed</u>
Jagged edges	Turnout Gear
Airborne disease	HEPA mask
Falling objects	Helmet
High pressure lines	Turnout Gear
Hot objects	Turnout Gear
Body fluid splatter	HEPA mask, eye protection, gown or turnout gear

D.3. After the run:

1. Clean off gross amounts of grime at the scene. This includes your SCBA.
2. Clean your boots before entering the station.
3. Make sure you have all your PPE, and that it is undamaged. This includes SCBA.
4. After the trucks and other equipment are back in service, clean your PPE and inspect it again. Clean your PPE as per the instruction sheet posted in the gear room. Hang wet gear so that it will air dry without becoming sour or mildewed.

E. Service and Maintenance of PPE

The SEO is responsible for the maintenance of PPE. Problems with PPE should be reported immediately to the ranking station officer, then to the SEO. The SEO will

make arrangements to remedy the problem. Do not attempt to repair damaged PPE without the permission of the SEO.

All PPE shall be inspected at least twice per year, and after each laundering. Inspectors must be trained in this task by the SEO. The inspection method is outlined on the inspection sheet.