

2017-106 PPE Care & Maintenance



Westbrook Fire and Rescue Department

Standard Operating Guideline

Section: Administrative	TOPIC: PPE Care & Maintenance
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	REVISED DATE:
POLICY REFERANCES: Maine BLS NFPA 1851 SOP 2017-113 PPE Standards	APPROVED BY: Andrew R. Turcotte Chief of Department

Purpose:

This procedure shall be used by all personnel responsible for the care and maintenance of all personal protective equipment (PPE) issued to them.

Scope:

To establish a written procedure for all members to follow regarding cleaning and maintenance of issued personal protective equipment (PPE).

Policy:

GENERAL

All firefighting personnel will be issued personal protective equipment that is in compliance with applicable standards. Issued PPE shall be used and maintained in accordance with applicable standards in effect at the time of issuance. PPE shall be used and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and a written/computer log of all maintenance, repair, retirement, servicing, and inspection shall be maintained by the Department PPE Coordinator. All PPE will be inspected annually by the Department PPE Coordinator with PPE washed at minimum annually.

Personnel are responsible for inspecting their PPE at least twice a year and after any major incident. Any PPE that is in need of repair or replacement is taken out of service until such time as the Department PPE Coordinator can have the necessary repairs made, or the PPE is fully retired from service. If PPE is taken out of service, it should be tagged with the Firefighters name, and what the problem is a (torn, burned, missing stitch on all layers, hardware detachments, etc.).

CARE & MAINTENANCE

The following are procedures for washing PPE according to the manufacturer's recommendations and NFPA

- Clean your PPE at least annually or as soon as possible after an incident where it has been soiled or exposed to blood or body fluids, tars, fuels, resins, paints, acids, by-products of combustion, or other hazardous materials.

- When possible, flush bunker gear with water at the fire scene after emergency operations is completed.
- If PPE is contaminated with body fluids, wear universal precautions while handling.
- Separate liners from coats and pants.
- Do not run more than two sets of PPE in the extractor machine at a time.
- Do not place bunker gear in a dryer or in direct sunlight – air dry only in a shaded or dark area of the station.
- Helmets should be cleaned with soap or mild detergent and warm water. Helmets are to be washed/cleaned after any exposure to any firefighting function (rubbish, vehicle, structure, etc.)
- Nomex hoods should be washed in the extractor machine **DO NOT USE BLEACH**. Nomex hoods should be washed anytime the individual has been involved in any actual firefighting (rubbish, vehicle, structure, etc.)
- Boots should be washed with mild soap and water.
- Gloves can be washed in the extractor machine **OR** with mild soap and warm water (not hot). **DO NOT USE BLEACH**.
- All PPE will be dried using the gear dehydrator only. The commercial dryer in the clean room is not to be used for PPE.

Any part of PPE should be washed **ONLY** in the designated extractor machine at the Public Safety Building (PSB) utilizing detergent specifically for structural firefighting PPE. Wash PPE separately from any other garments or items to eliminate the possibility of flammable lint in the PPE. Never wash oily rags with PPE.