



PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish the procedures for the wear and maintenance of personal protective clothing by members of the Stoney Point Fire Department.

DEFINITIONS:

American National Standards Institute – (ANSI) private non-profit organization that oversees the development of voluntary consensus standards for equipment, gear, clothing, and systems utilized by public safety organizations

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health – (IDLH) hostile environment where exposure to airborne contaminants is likely to cause death, immediate or delayed permanent adverse health effects

Maintenance - process of keeping something in good condition to ensure operability

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Personal Protective Equipment – (PPE) gear worn by personnel to protect them from hazards (medical PPE, structural PPE, rescue PPE) can include gloves, masks, and garments

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – (SCBA) device worn by firefighters, and others to provide breathable air in an immediately dangerous to life or health atmosphere

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department members operate in a variety of hazardous environments in the course of their duties. Therefore, appropriate personal protective equipment is provided to ensure the health and safety of the members. All members shall be responsible for ensuring that their protective clothing is clean, serviceable, and well maintained with the assistance of the paid staff. Members shall properly wear the appropriate protective clothing for the specific incident or training event that they are participating in.

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Structural Firefighting Gear

Operational members are provided with at least one set of structural firefighting gear consisting of the following items:

- Fire Helmet
- Turnout Coat
- Turnout Pants with Suspenders
- Structural Firefighting Gloves
- Turnout Boots
- Flash Hood

Structural Firefighting Gear shall not be permitted in any living spaces of either station to minimize the contamination of those spaces with the byproducts of structural firefighting.

The use of Structural Firefighting Gear is mandatory in the following situations:

- Responding to and working at structure fire related emergencies or alarms
- Responding to and working at wildland urban interface fire related emergencies
- Responding to and working at a Rescue emergencies and alarms
- Fire or Rescue related training evolutions
- Whenever riding in the rear of open cab apparatus
- Responding to any emergency call while in PT or sleep attire
- Whenever the Incident Commander or Officer deems it appropriate for safety or public relations
- **Exception:** Driver may don gear upon arrival at incident scene
- Additional **Safety Reflective vests** must be worn when operating near or around traffic and hazards associated with traffic control.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus shall be worn and utilized whenever the environment presents a respiratory hazard, to include but not limited to:

- Structural firefighting operations (interior and exterior)
- Salvage and overhaul operations
- Ventilation operations
- Search and Rescue operations whenever there is an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health environment
- Hazardous materials operations

Turn out gear shall not be worn at water related incidents. Members wearing structural firefighting gear shall not be assigned or permitted to operate within 10 feet of the water. Anyone operating within 10 feet of the water shall wear a properly fastened and approved personal flotation device. The Incident Commander may permit exceptions to the PFD requirement when reasonable circumstances exist, such as very shallow water.

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Technical Rescue Gear

Medical only members are provided with Technical Rescue gear consisting of the following items:

- Fire Helmet
- Technical Rescue Coat
- Technical Rescue Pants with Suspenders
- Rescue Gloves
- Turnout Boots
- Flash Hood

Technical Rescue gear shall not be permitted in any living spaces at either station to minimize the contamination of those spaces by the byproducts of rescue operations. The use of Technical Rescue Gear is mandatory in the following situations:

- Responding to and working at Technical Rescue emergencies and alarms
- Responding to and supporting operations at structure fire related emergencies or alarms
- Responding to and supporting operations at wildland urban interface fire related emergencies
- Fire or Rescue related training evolutions
- Whenever riding in the rear of open cab apparatus
- Responding to any emergency call while in PT or sleep attire
- Whenever the Incident Commander or Officer deems it appropriate for safety or public relations
- Additional **Safety Reflective vests** must be worn when operating near or around traffic and hazards associated with traffic control

Technical Rescue incidents may require specific PPE and equipment. The Incident Commander and/or Rescue Officer shall oversee the apparel chosen specifically designed for the Rescue Incident. These incidents include:

- High angle rescue
- Surface and Swift water rescue
- Confined space rescue
- Wilderness rescue

Water Rescue Gear

Stoney Point Fire Department members may participate in water rescue operations. The following is the approved protective gear for these operations:

- Technical or Water Rescue Helmet (member purchased, department provided)
- Water Boots (member purchased, department provided)
- Type V Personal Floatation Device with knife, whistle, rope, and flashlight
- Wet or Dry Suit (member purchased, department provided)
- Appropriate water clothing (shorts, shirt, etc.) (member purchased)
- ANSI Z87.1 approved safety glasses (member purchased, department provided)

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Wildland Firefighting Gear

Members of Stoney Point Fire Department may purchase Wildland Firefighting Gear for use during wildland firefighting operations. This gear must meet ANSI and NFPA standards and be approved by the Fire Chief. These items include:

- Wildland Firefighting Helmet
- Wildland Firefighting Shirt
- Wildland Firefighting Pants with Belt
- Wildland Firefighting Boots
- Wildland Firefighting Gloves

Protective Gear Maintenance

Members are responsible for maintaining their assigned protective gear. This includes:

- Conducting gross removal of debris and dirt at the training or incident scene
- Washing and drying of Helmet
- Washing and drying of exterior of gear with warm water and mild detergent as directed by the manufacturer
- Washing and drying of the interior protective layers and hoods with warm water and mild detergent as directed by the manufacturer
- Washing of gloves and boots with warm water and mild detergent as directed
- Paid staff can provide assistance as needed

Member Purchased Protective Gear

It is important to remember that members shall only be permitted to utilize protective gear that has either been issued by Stoney Point Fire Department, or has been approved, in writing, by the Fire Chief. Additional or personal protective clothing or equipment must meet ANSI standards as a precursor to approval by the Fire Chief. The Equipment Officer shall ensure that all purchased items comply with established standards prior to permitting members to utilize them. Modifications to assigned protective gear shall not be permitted unless approved, in writing, by the Fire Chief. Upon approval, the following items may be purchased by individual members for use:

- Fire Helmets of current design, matching appropriate rank and responsibilities
- Leather Turnout Boots
- Flash Hoods
- Structural Firefighting Gloves
- Rescue Gloves
- ANSI Z87.1 approved Safety Glasses
- Wildland Firefighting Gear (boots, pants, shirt, helmet, gloves)
- Technical or Water Rescue Helmet
- Water Rescue Boots

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Helmet Stickers

Members shall not affix any stickers to their helmets without prior written approval of the Fire Chief. If approved, the following stickers are the only permissible additions:

- Star of Life emblem – State certified EMT’s or higher on back right of helmet
- Hazmat Credentials – State certified Hazmat Operations or higher back left of helmet
- Firefighter rockers shall be worn by State certified Firefighters
- Engineer rockers shall be worn by State certified Driver Operators

No other stickers or labels shall be placed on any helmet worn by a member of Stoney Point Fire Department.

References

NFPA 1971

NFPA 1977

NFPA 1951

NFPA 1952

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