

<b>TITLE</b> OPERATIONS MANUAL	<b>STANDARD</b> INSTRUCTION 10		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE
<b>SUBJECT:</b> INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM PPE STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE	<b>SECTION</b> 11	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 3	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> 23 March 2017

**I. PURPOSE**

This policy outlines how all personal protective equipment (PPE) is cleaned and maintained to afford the employee the best possible protection. Personal protective equipment may contain many toxins that can be trapped in the fibers of soiled PPE. Soiled PPE reflects less radiant heat, is more likely to conduct electricity, may ignite and cause burns to firefighters. Additionally, the soot that becomes imbedded in PPE is a recognized carcinogen.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all San Diego Fire-Rescue (SDFD) personnel.

**III. AUTHORITY**

The fire chief authorizes the information in this policy.

**IV. POLICY**

A. Storage and Wearing of Turnouts

1. Personal protective clothing will not be worn or placed at any time in any living areas of the fire station. Personal protective clothing includes turnout coat and pants, brush jacket and pants, gloves, hood, helmet, and turnout boots.
2. Personal protective clothing may be worn on the apparatus floor, laundry room, oil room, hose tower and the exterior of the station.
3. Personal protective clothing will not be permitted in the sleeping quarters or in personal lockers.
4. When going off duty, all PPE will be stored in the assigned PPE locker. If PPE lockers are not available, store all PPE on apparatus floor in a dark/shaded location if possible. Light can degrade the PPE material and therefore reduce its effectiveness.
5. When off-duty, turnout gear should be stored in a gear bag, trunk or dark compartment if possible. Sunlight, even through the window of a vehicle, may significantly damage the PPE material.
6. Appropriate undergarments (running shorts and tee shirt) will be worn at all times to ensure modesty of coworkers and the public when changing into PPE.
7. Company officers shall ensure compliance with the requirements of this policy at all times.

B. Laundering of PPE

1. PPE shall be laundered:
  - a. At least quarterly
  - b. After physical contact with blood or other body fluids
  - c. When soot and other particles become embedded in the material
  - d. After any fire contamination occurs
  - e. Any time the company officer deems necessary
2. Turnout laundering instructions

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- a. Separate liners from outer shells and wash separately to avoid cross contamination.
  - b. Do not overload washing machine. Only wash one outer shell or inner lining set per wash load.
  - c. Fasten all closures, snaps or zippers.
  - d. Inner linings should be turned inside out prior to washing.
  - e. Wash turnouts in cold or warm water. Do not use hot water routinely for turnouts.
  - f. Turnouts shall only be washed using the department provided spot remover and laundry soap. This is due to the fact that the pH range for the detergent for turnouts must be between 6.0-10.0. Turnouts shall not be washed using any other detergents.
  - g. If the turnout coat has a Drag Rescue Device (DRD), the DRD shall be removed prior to the coat being washed. If the DRD needs cleaning, it shall be placed in a separate mesh bag and laundered.
  - h. Following the laundering of the turnouts, inspect both the lining and shell and rewash if necessary.
  - i. After washing turnouts, the washing machine must be run empty for a full cycle, with detergent and using hot water. This will prevent cross contamination of personal clothing.
  - j. Turnouts may be air dried in a shaded area, or they may be dried in the dryer on the air dry/no heat setting. As a general rule, heat should not be used to dry turnout gear or PPE.
3. Hood laundering instructions
- a. Each station has a 3-gallon plastic bucket for the sole purpose of laundering hoods.
  - b. Soiled hoods will be soaked in the bucket according to instructions listed on the department provided cleaning solution.
  - c. After soaking, the bucket contents will be emptied into a deep sink and the bucket and hoods will be rinsed with fresh cold water.
  - d. Hoods will then be placed into the station washing machine with an additional specified amount of provided cleaner in a normal cold cycle.
  - e. Once washed, hoods will be air-dried and placed back in service.
4. Bed bug laundering
- a. Shall include all of the steps identified in this Standard Instruction.
  - b. In addition, the PPE shall be washed and dried on hottest cycle of the washer/dryer.