

PALATINE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES	
SUBJECT: Turn-Out Gear-Inspection & Maintenance	SOG # SG-11
INDEXED AS: Safety Guidelines	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2003
APPROVED BY: Hank Clemmensen, Fire Chief	REPLACES: N/A

PURPOSE All personnel involved in firefighting, or exposure to contaminated atmospheres should maintain a reasonably clean set of turnout gear to:

1. Protect from long-term exposure to harmful residue.
2. Reduce long-range health problems due to prolonged exposure.
3. Project a more professional image to the public. Turnout gear shall consist of: Helmet with face shield, Turnout coat, Turnout pants, Nomex hood, Fire gloves and Bunker Boots.

Ideally turnout gear should be thoroughly cleaned after each use to insure minimum buildup of contaminating soil. It is very important turnout gear be cleaned frequently and effectively.

This policy applies to all members of the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District to which turnout gear has been issued.

POLICY Whenever a member of the Palatine Rural Fire Protection District is exposed to the contaminating atmosphere of a fire or Hazardous Material incident whether structural, automobile and/or trash (if significant), or any other contaminating atmosphere, the turnout gear will be decontaminated as soon as practical after the alarm.

PROCEDURE: When any member is exposed to a contaminating atmosphere such as a fire or Hazardous Material incident, he/she will, as soon as practical, flush the contaminants from his/her turnout gear either with a hose line on the scene or with a hose line when he/she returns to quarters. Research has indicated that simple hose line flushing will remove in excess of 95% of particulate contaminants encountered on the fire- ground.

INSPECTION: Each member of the fire department is responsible for inspecting his/her turnout gear before each tour of duty. Visual inspections of the gear will include:

HELMET:

1. Reasonably clean with front piece and name letters in place.
2. No missing parts.
3. Face shield is not broken or excessively scratched.
4. Chin strap is not broken or missing.
5. Helmet liner is not shredded, worn, split or cracked.
6. Webbed suspensions are not broken or torn.
7. No visible cracks or excessively deep gouges in shell.
8. Shell not warped or bubbled from exposure to heat.
9. No helmet degradation or flaking.

NOMEX HOOD :

1. There will be no holes or tears in hood.
2. Hoods are not stretched out of shape and/or not providing coverage of all face and neck skin surfaces.

GLOVES :

1. Not stiff or rigid.
2. No worn or rotten stitching.
3. Glove insulation not worn through.
4. No holes or tears.
5. Gloves fit properly.
6. Gloves are fire department approved.

TURNOUT COAT AND PANTS :

1. No holes or rips in garment shell.
2. No broken snaps or clasps.
3. No rivets pulled loose from the fabric.
4. No missing stitching.
5. No ripped liners.
6. Suspenders are not broken or stretched.
7. Reflective stripes are not burned, cracked, melted or torn.
8. No fabric of the shells worn through.

BOOTS :

1. No holes.
2. No severe cracks.
3. Boots fit properly.

ANY TURNOUT GEAR IN NEED OF REPAIR WILL BE TURNED OVER TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT.

Turnout coat and pants will be washed as needed. If a member decides to wash his/her gear while on duty, he/she should first get a replacement set of gear from storage with the permission of his/her officer. The dirty gear should then be brought to the nearest laundry mat for cleaning; follow cleaning instructions on inside of gear. Return borrowed gear after use.

