



**CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01605**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICE**

**Michael O. McNamee**  
*District Chief*

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**SAVE YOUR HOME  
AND BUSINESS  
PREVENT FIRES**

**HEALTH & SAFETY DIRECTIVE 05-03**  
**5/4/05**

**TO: All Personnel**  
**FROM: District Chief Michael McNamee**  
**RE: Uniform /PPE Inspection**

The Safety Chief shall conduct the annual inspection of Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) during the month of June. PPE will not be inspected until uniforms have been inspected and approved by your respective district chief. District chiefs will be furnished with updated forms for each member. Members shall retain the signed form, once the uniforms have been approved, and present it to the Safety Chief during the PPE inspection.

PPE includes: turnout coat and pants, helmet, boots, gloves, hood, personal light, SCBA face piece with bag, clip, Leatherman tool and accountability name tag. All PPE must comply with requirements of Administrative Guideline #006, Turnout Gear. Older PPE that has outlived its useful life will not be approved. It must be in a condition to provide the designed level of safety. The following is a list of the most common causes of failure:

- Coat/pants assembly: Tears, extreme wear or brittleness in the fabric. Loose or missing reflective striping. Missing radio pockets or other components.
- Boots: Worn out soles and tears in leather or rubber.
- Helmets: torn or ineffective liners, missing or ineffective chinstrap, improper shield.
- Gloves: Torn, worn or improper wristlet style.
- Neoprene coated coat or pants.

**NOTE:** Elliott Enterprises will be at South Division to repair damaged gear on May 9, 10 and 11, if necessary. He will be there by noon on the 9'th.

The NFPA Standard on the Care and Maintenance of PPE recommends that all PPE be cleaned at least twice a year. The products that we are exposed to during a structure fire accumulate on our gear. Proper cleaning will extend the useful life of the PPE. It is in our best interest to wash it at the required intervals (at a minimum) and more frequently if the exposure requires. The department has two extractors (washing machines) and one dryer. The extractor at E-15's house requires that you provide your own liquid (non-chlorinated) detergent. The machine at Webster Square has an automatic injection system of specially formulated cleaning agents to do the job. No detergents need to be added. There is also a dryer at this location.

When possible, it is recommended to wash the liners and hoods separate from the outer shell and gloves, because the outer shell contains the bulk of the contaminants. Follow manufacturers laundering instructions. However, the general recommendation is to air dry the outer shells and to machine dry the thermal barrier at a relatively low temperature. A thorough inspection is also recommended at this time.

Michael McNamee  
District Chief, Health & Safety