



CITY OF WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01605
FIRE DEPARTMENT SAFETY OFFICE

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**SAVE YOUR HOME
AND BUSINESS
PREVENT FIRES**

Michael O. McNamee
District Chief

SAFETY DIRECTIVE 04-02

TO:

FROM: District Chief Michael McNamee

RE: Turnout Gear

Administrative Guideline # 6 defines and describes turnout gear as well as how and when it shall be worn. In the interest of personal safety, members must adhere to the procedures as outlined.

- 6.1.0 ALL mandatory turnout gear shall be worn for response to ALL alarms of fire, electronic or reported. This shall include but is not limited to structure fires, chimney fires, transportation vehicle fires of any size and type, dumpster and refuse fires, and grass, leaves and brush fires.
- 6.2.1 Further, ALL mandatory turnout gear shall be worn for response to ALL incidents reported to involve hazardous materials of any kind or for vehicle, aircraft accidents not involving fire. All mandatory turnout gear shall be worn for all training activities where gear is required.
- 6.2.2 Turnout coat, pants, boots and helmet shall be properly in place prior to leaving the apparatus area. Hood and gloves may be donned while approaching the incident area.

Recent incidents have involved members actively working on the fire-ground with incomplete or even the total absence of protective clothing. This situation is usually the result of an apparatus driver failing to gear up before the run. Responses to any of the above incidents require the pre-response donning of full protective gear whenever practical. A pump operator or rescue driver, safely remote from the incident, may remove his coat during hot weather. Aerial operators in close proximity to the incident shall remain in full protective gear. Also during hot weather members in rehab are encouraged to remove as much of their protective gear as possible and hydrate to avoid heat related problems.

Responsibility for safety begins with the individual and is reinforced by the company and chief officers. Knowingly placing oneself in areas of potential danger without the complete use of personal protective equipment will not be tolerated.

