

SOG# 502-11	Standard Operating Guideline	Safety		
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cumberland Road Fire Department Inc.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Personal Protective Equipment</p>	Approved By		
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Effective Date</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Revised Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 26, 1993</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Effective Date	Revised Date
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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the proper use and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during station activities, emergency response operations and training activities.

**DEFINITIONS:**

- PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) – Garments or items worn on the body, either individually or as part of an ensemble, that helps to provide protection to the wearer from various hazards encountered during work related duties and training.
- STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PPE (BUNKER GEAR) – An ensemble of garments worn on the body to help protect the wearer from thermal, chemical, biological, respiratory, blood borne and physical hazards encountered during emergency response operations and training.
- NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA)
- AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE (ANSI)

**SCOPE**

This policy shall be applicable to all departmental personnel that are trained and certified in fire suppression activities, including any probationary or junior members.

**PROCEDURE**

- Section 1. PPE
  - All Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department (CRFD) personnel that are trained and certified or working toward becoming certified in fire suppression activities shall be issued, at a minimum, the following NFPA compliant structural firefighting PPE:
    1. One (1) structural firefighting helmet with NFPA and/or ANSI approved eye protection
    2. One (1) bunker coat
    3. One (1) bunker pants
    4. One (1) pair structural firefighting gloves
    5. One (1) pair leather structural firefighting boots
    6. One (1) structural firefighting hood
    7. One (1) SCBA mask ( Mask are to remain in storage bags when not in use)
  - Additional PPE carried on all fire suppression apparatus:
    1. ANSI compliant eye protection

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2. ANSI compliant traffic vest
3. Nitrile medical gloves in various sizes
4. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
5. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD Located on 561 and 571)

➤ Section 2. Personal Protection

- Emergency Incidents requiring the mandatory complete and proper use of structural firefighting PPE:
  1. Response to any structural or vehicle fire, or fire alarm activation
  2. During interior structural fire suppression activities; including but not limited to, search, rescue, salvage and overhaul activities
  3. Forcible entry
  4. Ventilation
  5. Aerial or ground ladder operations
  6. Vehicle, mechanical or industrial extrications
  7. On responses determined to be woods fires (reduction of PPE on these types of incidents will be determined by the Company Officer upon arrival)
  8. **Must be used in conjunction with SCBA any time a respiratory hazard or IDLH environment exists, including but not limited to, Carbon Monoxide levels that exceed 35 ppm or Hydrogen Cyanide levels that exceed 4 ppm.**
- The use of biohazard/medical PPE, to include skin, respiratory, eye and splash protection, shall be used any time personnel make contact with, or are in close proximity to a patient that presents an exposure hazard(s) at medical incident(s).
- ANSI compliant traffic vests must be worn by all personnel operating near, around, or in roadway traffic, regardless of whether or not it is during routine activities or during an emergency incident, unless engaged in fire suppression activities or wearing a structural firefighting bunker coat. Driver/Operations shall wear traffic vests when operating fire apparatus pumps or assisting other Driver/Operators.
- Hazardous Materials incidents may require specific PPE designed for exclusively for HazMat environments. The Incident Commander and/or Hazardous Materials Company Officer shall determine the appropriate level of PPE for HazMat mitigation and stabilization.
- Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) shall be worn during any water related activity, training or incident. Any personnel within 10 feet of a body of water shall have an approved PFD on and securely fastened. Structural firefighting PPE should not be worn in or within close proximity to any body of water.

➤ Section 3. Eye Protection

- Proper eye protection shall be used during activities that may cause eye injury. This includes but is not limited to:

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1. Checking underneath fire apparatus during morning safety inspection.
2. Using hammers, axe or forcible entry tools.
3. When the SCBA face piece is not required, safety glasses or goggles shall be used during salvage & overhaul operations, provided that a respiratory hazard or IDLH environment does not exist, including but not limited to, Carbon Monoxide levels that exceed 35 ppm or Hydrogen Cyanide levels that exceed 4 ppm.
4. Checking or using hydraulic equipment.
5. During contact with patients/victims when there is a splash potential.

➤ Section 4. Respiratory Protection

- SCBA is required anytime a respiratory hazard or IDLH environment is present. This includes, but is not limited to:
  1. Oxygen deficient environment.
  2. Carbon Monoxide levels that exceed 35ppm.
  3. Hydrogen Cyanide levels in excess of 4ppm.

➤ Section 5. Personally Owned PPE

- Personnel shall only use department issued PPE, with the exception of the following:
  1. Structural firefighting helmets
  2. Structural firefighting leather boots
  3. Structural firefighting hoods
  4. Structural firefighting gloves
  5. Utility or work gloves for non-fire suppression activities
  6. ANSI approved eye protection
- Personnel are allowed to use the specifically listed personally owned elements, provided that each meets the most current NFPA, OSHA and /or ANSI Standards. Personally owned PPE elements must first be inspected and approved by the Fire Department Chief or his/her designee. They then become part of the PPE ensemble and are subject to the same guidelines. Any helmet worn by an employee of the Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department shall be subject to inspection for fitness by the appropriate supervisor and ordered removed from service if found unsafe. This determination shall be made by the Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department, not the member.
- Any members who are discovered to be wearing a personally owned helmet that does not meet departmental standards (missing or broken eye protection, defective outer shell, etc.) will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department is not financially responsible for the replacement of personally owned PPE.

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➤ Section 6. Structural Firefighting PPE Modifications/Repairs

- If an alteration, modification or repair is necessary on a bunker coat or pants, it must be made by a departmentally approved individual or company, conforming to manufacturer specifications and NFPA standards. Examples of approved aftermarket alterations/modifications include, but are not limited to:
  1. The location and size of the Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department insignia.
  2. There shall be no alterations or additional accessories made and/or added to PPE by the employee.
  3. Logistics personnel shall manage all PPE repairs utilizing a manufacturer recognized repair facility. All elements shall be subjected to an advance or specialized cleaning before any repair work is done. Loaner PPE will be available to personnel while repairs are being made.
  4. Accessories affixed to helmets are allowed if they meet the following criteria and do not pose a safety hazard: Items that serve to assist the firefighter in the duties of emergency operations (flashlights, and bands to hold items such as door chocks).

➤ Section 7. Maintenance and Care of Structural Firefighting PPE

- Inspection of Structural Firefighting PPE shall be done in accordance with NFPA standards, which identifies *Routine Inspection* and *Advanced Inspection* as the two primary types of PPE inspection.
  1. Routine inspection – Department personnel shall conduct a routine inspection of their PPE each time after the ensemble or element is exposed to, or is suspected of having been exposed to damage or contamination.
  2. Advanced Inspections of PPE ensembles and elements shall be conducted a minimum of every six (6) months, or whenever routine inspections indicate a problem may exist. Advanced inspections shall only be conducted by trained department personnel or from a manufacturer approved vendor certified to conduct advanced inspections. All findings from advanced inspections shall be documented. Advance inspections shall include, as a minimum, the inspection criteria outlined in NFPA standards.

➤ Section 8. Decommissioning PPE

- All PPE ensembles and elements that are worn or damaged to the extent that Logistics deems it not possible or cost effective to repair shall be decommissioned. All PPE ensembles and elements that are contaminated to the extent that Logistics deems it not possible or cost effective to decontaminate shall be retired.

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➤ Section 9. Special Incident Procedure

- If any member of the Cumberland Road Volunteer Fire Department suffers serious injury or death while wearing PPE, the following shall occur:
  1. The PPE will immediately be removed from service
  2. Custody will be maintained by the Fire Chief or his/her designee and the PPE shall be kept in a secure location with controlled, documented access.
  3. All PPE shall be nondestructively tagged and stored only in paper or cardboard containers to prevent further degradation or damage. **Plastic or airtight containers shall not be used.**
  4. The PPE will be made available to qualified members of the department or outside experts as approved by the Fire Chief, to determine the condition thereof.
  5. Retention time for the custody of the PPE shall be determined by the Fire Chief.