

Standard Operating Procedures Manual

City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue



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830 Poquoson Ave.
Poquoson, VA 23662
757-868-3510
F757-868-3514

EQUIPMENT AND APPARATUS

SOP#: EA 5.00

Title: PPE & Equipment

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Joseph J. Holloway Jr.
Fire Chief's Signature

James F. Whelehan
City Manager's Signature

PPE & EQUIPMENT

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures and regulations for the wearing of protective clothing and equipment.

This SOP is not all-inclusive and cannot encompass all situations that may be encountered.

II. POLICY

Issued protective clothing and equipment are specifically designed for the protection of department personnel from bodily injury and the effects of extreme heat and cold. Compliance with this established procedure, along with good judgment and common sense is imperative for the prevention of injuries.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

The **Incident Commander** shall be directly responsible for the safety of personnel on the emergency scene. Therefore, the Incident Commander shall insist that personnel function to maximize safety by complying with this SOP, and

expect all personnel to accept individual responsibility for proper use of protective clothing and equipment.

The **Safety Officer**, once established, shall be responsible for assisting the Incident Commander to ensure that scene personnel wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

All **Company Officers and supervisors** shall ensure that scene personnel wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment.

All personnel shall keep issued protective clothing and equipment readily available for immediate use. All issued protective clothing and equipment shall be kept clean and serviceable.

WEARING OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

Responding to Emergencies

- Full protective clothing and equipment shall be worn on all emergency responses involving fire, motor vehicle accidents, or other hazardous scenes.
- All personnel shall don proper protective clothing and equipment prior to the departure of the responding apparatus.
- Drivers are not required to wear protective clothing / equipment that hinders movement or visibility while driving.
- Personnel assigned to Medic Units shall don PPE when they arrive on scene.

OPERATING AT THE SCENE OF AN EMERGENCY

The following protective clothing and equipment shall be worn by all department personnel when arriving and operating at an emergency

incident involving fire, a hazardous atmosphere or any motor vehicle accident.

- Helmet with liner and chinstrap
- Turnout Coat with liners intact
- Turnout Pants with liners intact
- Gloves as issued
- Hood (Nomex)
- Boots as issued
- Breathing apparatus shall be worn on all fire scenes or when the atmosphere may be hazardous, or potentially hazardous.
- Breathing apparatus must be worn with Carbon Monoxide levels greater than 35 PPM and Oxygen Levels less than 19.5% as indicated by the use of atmospheric monitors.

NOTE: The decision to wear breathing apparatus on woods / brush fires shall be made by the IC.

After all hazards have been controlled (or determined to be nonexistent) on motor vehicle accident scenes and other roadway responses, full protective clothing and equipment can be downgraded to the Traffic Safety Vest.

The Incident Commander or Officer on scene may determine that personnel may remove certain items of protective clothing. In all situations, safety considerations are paramount, and the comfort and convenience of personnel is secondary.

Appropriate body substance isolation procedures shall be used by personnel functioning on medical / trauma scenes as needed.

Apparatus operators, commanders, staff, and support personnel shall wear protective clothing as dictated by the hazards of their operating areas.

ALL personnel exposed to vehicular traffic on streets and highways shall wear the protective clothing that offers maximum visibility to drivers.

ALL personnel shall wear safety belts at all times when operating on the aerial ladder.

TRAINING

A supervisor may determine the conditions that require protective clothing and/or equipment to be worn by personnel participating in training drills. Decisions regarding PPE worn during training shall reflect and preserve the intent of this SOP.