

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Reference Number: IVN10-0008	Revises Previous Effective Date:
Subject: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH/PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT		NEW
Authority: WETHERINGTON/HODGE	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Page 1 of 5

I. POLICY:

This standard applies to all Firefighters required to work in hazardous environments. It was promulgated to establish guidelines for the use of protective clothing and equipment to reduce the risk of illness, injury, or death that might result from a member's exposure to a hazardous environment.

II. APPLICABILITY:

All Department of Corrections Certified Firefighters in State and County Fire Departments.

III. RELATED DIRECTIVES:

NFPA Standards-1971, 1977 and 1981

IV. DEFINITIONS:

NONE

V. ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

VI. PROCEDURE:

A. (General)

1. Each Firefighter shall wear protective clothing and use equipment appropriate for the hazards to which he is exposed.
2. Each Firefighter shall properly maintain the protective clothing and equipment that have been

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 2 of 5
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-000

issued to him and that are carried on the apparatus to which he has been assigned.

3. A standard washing machine and dryer have been provided at each station to allow Firefighters to maintain their work uniforms.
4. Any equipment or protective clothing that is found to be unsafe or inoperable shall be red-tagged, removed from service immediately, and forwarded to the appropriate vendor for repair.

B. STRUCTURAL FIRE FIGHTING

1. Each Firefighter assigned to fight structure fires shall be issued protective clothing and equipment that comply with all applicable NFPA standards and local requirements. These items shall include:
 - a. Helmet
 - b. Boots
 - c. Gloves
 - d. Coat
 - e. Pants with suspenders
 - f. SCBA facepiece
 - g. Hood
2. No alternatives shall be made to protective clothing without the approval of the Fire Services Manager.
3. Each Firefighter operating within a perimeter designated as hazardous by the incident safety officer shall wear his full protective clothing in the prescribed manner. The incident safety officer shall determine when and if it is safe to remove some or all of the clothing.
4. Firefighters shall be fully clothed beneath their turnouts (wearing the appropriate work uniform).

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 3 of 5
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-000

C. (SCBA)

1. All self-contained breathing apparatus used by the Department shall comply with NFPA 1981 current edition.
2. Unless the safety of the atmosphere can be determined by testing and continuous monitoring, all personnel shall use SCBA while working in areas where:
 - a. The atmosphere is hazardous.
 - b. The atmosphere is suspected of being hazardous.
 - c. The atmosphere may rapidly become hazardous.
3. Firefighters wearing SCBA shall always work in teams of at least two Firefighters each.
4. SCBA and spare cylinders shall be kept on each apparatus and be available for immediate use.
5. SCBA shall not be removed until the incident safety officer has determined by testing that the atmosphere is no longer hazardous and that CO levels are less than 50 ppm.
6. A personal alert safety system (PASS) device that complies with NFPA 1982 shall be assigned to each SCBA and shall be activated whenever the SCBA is in use.

D. WILDLAND FIRE FIGHTING

1. Protective clothing and equipment that meet NFPA 1977, *Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting*, shall be provided for use by each Firefighter assigned to a brush company. This includes coveralls or pants and shirts, gloves, footwear, helmets, and eye protection.
2. Wildland gear shall be worn in lieu of structural protective clothing when fighting grass and brush fires whenever it is available.

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 4 of 5
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-000

3. If wildland gear is unavailable, the Station Chief shall determine the level of protection that is required. At minimum, protection shall include Nomex pants and shirt, gloves, helmet, eye protection, and footwear that meets NFPA 1971.

E. LIFE SAFETY ROPES, HARNESSSES, AND HARDWARE

1. All life safety ropes, harnesses, and hardware used by the Department shall meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1983, *Standard on Fire Service Life Safety Rope and system Components*.
2. Class I life safety harnesses shall only be used for firefighting attachment to ladders and aerial devices.
3. Class II and Class III life safety harnesses shall be used for fall arrest and rappelling operations.
4. Rope used to support the weight of Firefighters or other persons during rescue, firefighting, other emergency operations, or training evolutions shall be life safety rope. Life safety rope used for any other purpose shall be removed from service and destroyed.
5. Life safety rope used for rescue at fires or other emergency incidents or for training shall be inspected before and after each use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and may be reused provided it has not sustained any visual damage due to heat, direct flame impingement, chemical exposure, or abrasion.
6. Life safety rope shall be removed from service and destroyed if the rope has been subjected to an impact load or exposure to a chemical known to deteriorate rope.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Each Firefighter shall inspect protective clothing and equipment issued to him/her and assigned to their apparatus at the beginning of each shift. Each Firefighter is responsible for cleaning, care,

Functional Area: SUPPORT SERVICES/FIRE SERVICES	Prev. Eff. Date: NEW	Page 5 of 5
	Effective Date: 4/01/02	Reference Number: IVN10-000

and maintenance of his/her clothing and equipment and for obtaining repairs or replacement items.

2. Station Chiefs shall inspect protective clothing and equipment issued to the Firefighters under their command during the first shift of each month to ensure that all items are being properly maintained and are functioning properly.
3. The Station Chief shall be responsible for ensuring that all Firefighters operating within the hazardous perimeter of an incident are properly attired and using the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. Any Firefighter who is in violation of this procedure shall be ordered to promptly leave the hazardous area.
4. A Firefighter who uses a life safety rope shall have the rope inspected by the Station chief before the rope can be returned to service.
5. The Station Chief shall maintain a record of all rope use and shall remove from service all rope deemed to be unsafe.