



Monroe Fire Department

Standard Operating Guidelines Protective Clothing Usage

Purpose: To assure that all personnel are prepared to safely begin fire or rescue operations immediately on arrival at an emergency scene.

Level of Performance: To maintain the highest degree of personal safety for all department personnel. This guideline will apply to all personnel operating at the scene of any emergency incident or training exercise.

As with any safety guideline, primary responsibility rests with each individual. Company supervisors are responsible for enforcement of this guideline within their respective companies or crews. Authority to deviate from this guideline rests with the supervisor who retains full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

For the purpose of this guideline, full protective clothing will consist of the following:

- Helmet with liner and face shield
- Turn-out coat with liner
- Turn-out pants with liner
- Boots
- Gloves
- Protective hood
- SCBA or safety glasses

Protective clothing will be issued or approved by the department. Alterations to any equipment, such as the removal of coat or pant liner are prohibited. If the need for some alteration is needed, it must first be approved by the Safety Committee. Protective clothing will be used by all personnel according to the following guidelines.

Emergency operations will not begin until personnel have donned all necessary protective clothing. Personal safety will not be sacrificed in order to increase the speed of emergency operations.

Personnel will wear full protective clothing when responding to any type of alarm indicating fire, potential fire, explosion, potential explosion or release of any type of hazardous substance. Protective clothing will be donned prior to boarding apparatus. Full protective clothing is optional for the driver and incident command officer during the response. Upon arrival to the incident the operator will don their protective clothing. However, the operator may leave his protective clothing off if there is no imminent danger, however he or she must be ready to don his clothing at any time.

Reflective vests will be worn at all non-fire incidents. Vests shall be kept on turn-out gear in the station and shall be removed when responding to fire-related incidents.

If an alarm is received while the apparatus is out of quarters, all personnel will don full protective clothing immediately upon arrival at the emergency scene and before the start of emergency operations.

Hearing protection shall be worn when using power tools. Hearing protection shall also be worn when in the area of operating power tools.

Full protective clothing shall be worn by all personnel operating power tools, hydraulic tools or forcible entry tools. Full protective clothing is also required for all personnel in an area where any of these tools are being used.

Personnel operating at the scene of an EMS or rescue incident will wear whatever equipment is necessary to assure personal safety during the incident.

Gloves will be worn at all times when hand tools, power tools, hose, ladders or other equipment is used that could cause injuries to the hands. This shall include all work details and training exercises.

Helmets with chin straps in place shall be worn by all personnel working in areas where there might be a possibility that tools, equipment or debris from above may fall.

Damage to protective clothing shall be immediately reported to the Safety Committee. The Safety Committee will inspect the damaged article and order it replaced or repaired if needed.

Incident Commanders may use their discretion to determine the appropriate level of protective clothing required for personnel working at incidents where no specific guidelines have been established.

Implementation: This policy has been approved by the Officers of the Monroe Fire Department and the Monroe Common Council. This policy, and all adopted procedures, provide a guideline for operations within the Monroe Fire Department. Adoption of these guidelines in no way restricts the incident commander, department administration or the Monroe Common Council from modifying operations or implementing exceptions to policy in the interest of safety, efficiency and harmony within the organization. It shall remain in effect until withdrawn or modified by the department.

Effective Date: December 2, 2014