



**Wintergreen Fire and Rescue
Standard Administrative Policy**

Subject:	Personal Protective Equipment
Reference Number:	FIRE 02-003
Effective Date:	6-Mar-19
Last Revision Date:	24-Feb-22
Signature of Approval	Curtis Sheets, Chief

Purpose:

The purpose of this SOG is to create a uniform procedure on the use and care of personal protective equipment.

Policy:

Department issued personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be worn at all emergency incidents and training evolutions, with the exception of first responder EMS calls. Appropriate body substance isolation and protective equipment shall be used on such EMS calls. Personally owned turnout gear shall not be worn without specific permission of the Chief.

Fire Department personnel shall be issued PPE. The protective equipment shall consist of a helmet, hood, coat, trousers, boots and gloves. A cargo bag for transporting and protecting the equipment may also be issued.

Care & Maintenance of PPE:

1. Members are responsible for inspecting for the serviceability, cleanliness, and proper fit of PPE assigned to them. This should be done on a monthly basis. Members who notice discrepancies with their assigned PPE shall inform the PPE Coordinator. PPE shall not be altered.
2. Read and follow the care and laundering instructions on the label.
3. Gear shall be inspected yearly, as indicated by the PPE Coordinator to ensure it has not expired and with no flaws that could lead to an injury.
4. Gear should be rinsed off after an incident where it has been in contact with contaminants and washed in an appropriate laundry machine when needed.
5. Gear that is stored in your personal vehicle when not in use should be stored out of direct sunlight to help reduce the breakdown of the gear. This can either be done by covering the gear or storing it in the issued cargo bag.

Use of PPE:

Structural firefighting PPE shall be worn by members working at structure fires and other incidents where the possibility of being affected by the products of combustion exist. The PPE is meant to be worn all-inclusive of its parts: helmet, hood, coat, trousers, boots and gloves. During the overhaul and investigative phases of an incident, a modification of the

PPE ensemble may be used if approved by the officers-in-charge. At no point during overhaul or investigation will a helmet or gloves be optional. Also see SOG 02-009 for use of air packs during overhaul and investigative phases of an incident.