



WARE FIRE DEPARTMENT Standard Operating Guideline

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SOG Title: Personal Protective Equipment		
Approved by:	Re-evaluation Date: January 2009	Number of Pages: 3

Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to assure that all personnel are prepared to commence fire suppression or rescue operations immediately on arrival at an emergency scene while maintaining the highest degree of personal safety for all personnel.

Scope: This procedure shall apply to all personnel operating at the scene of any emergency incident or training exercise.

Enforcement: As with any safety procedure, primary responsibility for adherence to this guideline rests with each member of the Ware Fire Department. Officers are responsible for enforcement of this guideline within their respective groups. Authority to deviate from this guideline rests solely with the Incident Commander who bears full responsibility for the results of any deviation.

Definition: For the purpose of this guideline full protective equipment shall consist of helmet with face shield or goggles, flashover hood, turnout coat, turnout pants, boots and gloves. All equipment is to be properly fastened and closed with flashover hood on, coat collar up and helmet earflaps turned down. All equipment shall be issued or approved by the Chief. Alterations to any equipment, such as the removal of coat or pants liner, are prohibited. The Chief must pre-approve alterations to equipment.

Incident Area: The incident area is defined as anywhere conditions exist that will cause personal injury. This area will include the structure or vehicle involved, the immediate area of a leak, spill, or fire, the inside perimeter around structures considering building collapse, areas subject to explosion, flashover or backdrafts, situations involving vapor or liquid releases, along with the paths of vapor or liquid travel.

Application: Protective equipment shall be worn by all personnel according to the following guidelines:

- Under no circumstances shall any aspect of personal safety be sacrificed in order to increase the speed of emergency operations. Emergency operations shall not commence until all involved personnel have donned all necessary protective equipment. In all cases personnel shall be required to wear all protective equipment necessary to protect against all foreseeable hazards.
- All fulltime personnel shall wear full protective equipment when responding to any type of alarm indicative of fire, potential fire, explosion, potential explosion, or release of any type of hazardous material. All protective equipment shall be donned prior to boarding the apparatus. Full protective equipment is optional for drivers. All apparatus/driver operators are subject to the same requirements as stated herein when operating in the incident area.
- All call personnel shall wear full protective equipment as soon as arriving at the scene of any type of alarm indicative of fire, potential fire, explosion, potential explosion, or release of any type of hazardous material.
- If an alarm is received while the apparatus is out of quarters all personnel shall don full protective equipment immediately upon arrival at the emergency scene and prior to beginning any emergency operations.
- All personnel operating power tools, hydraulic tools or forcible entry tools shall wear full protective equipment. Full protective equipment is also required for all personnel in any area where any of these tools are being used.
- Personnel operating at the scene of an EMS or rescue incident shall wear whatever protective equipment is necessary to assure personal safety during the incident.
- Gloves shall be worn at all times when hand tools, power tools, hose, ladders or any other equipment is used that could cause injuries to the hands. This shall include all work details, maintenance operations and training exercises.
- Helmets with chinstrap in place shall be worn by all personnel operating at incidents where there is a possibility that tools, equipment or debris from above may fall and at any time personnel are operating above or below grade such as trench rescue or high angle rope rescue situations.
- Damage to personal protective equipment shall be reported as soon as practical after the incident to the Group Commander/Shift Lieutenant and a report shall be completed on the cause of damage. The Group Commander/Shift Lieutenant shall inspect the damaged article and order it replaced or repaired. Equipment damaged such that its protective ability is impaired shall not be used.
- Incident Commanders may use their discretion to determine the appropriate level of protective equipment required for personnel operating at incidents where no specific guidelines have been established.
- Command post personnel and others far removed from the incident scene as well as crews performing routine EMS work may opt not to wear their structural firefighting personal protective equipment at the discretion of the Incident Commander. If they enter the incident area they shall be guided by the requirements as stated herein.
- Personnel assigned to the Rehabilitation Sector, or otherwise on break, may remove personal protective equipment.
- Members of the department while working in roadways or in roadway due to apparatus being placed back in service shall be required to wear safety vests. Each vehicle shall have an appropriate number of vests.

Equipment Inspections: Officers will personally inspect all protective equipment for each firefighter assigned to their group. This inspection will be conducted in February, May, August and November. The inspection shall be made in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Ware Fire Department to assure that all personnel have all necessary equipment and that it is in usable condition. The Group Commanding Officer/Shift Lieutenant shall confirm the inspection by completing a Personal Protective Equipment Inspection Report and submitting it to the Chief of the Department. Personal protective clothing shall be cleaned as deemed necessary by the Officer.