



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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Fire Chief Signature

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Page: 1 of 2

Purpose: This policy establishes the minimum requirements for the use of personal protective clothing and equipment for department personnel when operating in a hazard zone or Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment. This policy is written to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 29 CFR 1910.132 and NFPA 1500, 2007 edition.

Definitions

Hazard zone

The hazard zone is defined as any area that requires use of SCBA or in which a firefighter is at risk of becoming lost, trapped, or injured by the environment or the structure. This would include entering a structure reported to be on fire, operating in near proximity to the structure during exterior fire attack, and cause and origin investigation, confined space, trench rescue, etc.

IDLH

An atmosphere that poses an immediate threat to life and/or would cause irreversible adverse health effects or would impair an individual's ability to escape from a dangerous atmosphere.

L2PPE: Level 2 PPE

Department issue firefighting boots, bunker pants, coat, hood, helmet with chinstrap fastened and equipped with goggles and firefighting gloves.

L1PPE: Level 1 PPE

Level 2 Protective and SCBA.

Policy

Personal Protective Equipment

It is the policy of the GFD to provide personnel with the appropriate protective clothing and equipment. This protective clothing and equipment shall be used whenever an individual is exposed or potentially exposed to workplace hazards. The protective clothing and equipment purchased by the department shall meet or exceed the appropriate NFPA standard(s) and department specifications in effect at the time of purchase. Each individual is responsible to utilize, maintain, and clean their protective clothing and equipment consistent with the manufacturer's instructions and department policy or guidelines.

Authorized Items and Modification

Protective clothing shall not be modified in any manner without written approval from the department. Only personal protective clothing or equipment issued by the fire department is authorized for use. Personal items such as hand lights, wire cutters, small tools, etc. may be utilized provided they do not reduce the level of protection provided by issued clothing/equipment.

Required Level of PPE

Personnel shall not remove their protective clothing until such time that their company officer or the Incident Commander determines that such protection is no longer necessary. If operating conditions warrant, company officers may increase or decrease the required level of PPE but the responsibility to protect their personnel from injury remains with the officer.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

The use of PPE can be utilized in pandemic situations that may go beyond the scope of 29CFR1910.132. In these situations the Fire Chief will address necessary standards of mandatory PPE to accommodate and protect GFD members.

Use and discontinuation of use of SCBA shall be in accordance with SOG 007.

If during multi-company operations the IC specifies a certain level of PPE, company officers shall not decrease that level without permission of the IC.

Incident Commanders will determine the level of PPE in those situations not addressed by this policy or where exceptions to the policy appear necessary.

Eye Protection

It is the responsibility of all members to identify situations that pose the potential for eye injury, and to utilize the appropriate level of protection. The primary and only permissible forms of eye protection are either the SCBA face-piece, goggles, helmet installed face-shield, or OSHA approved safety glasses. Eye protection shall be used when there is a potential for flying debris, airborne particles, spraying/splashing of hazardous fluids or any other situation which may present the possibility of eye injury. This includes when operating hand or power/hydraulic tools, whenever working above head level, during wildland firefighting, and helicopter operations.

When engaged in EMS operations, EMS safety goggles shall be worn as part of universal precautions.

Storage of PPE

Protective clothing and equipment shall be stored in the appropriate location. Protective clothing shall not be worn or stored upstairs in the fire station. This includes the kitchen, clubroom, meeting room, washrooms, or other areas.

Cleaning, Maintenance, and Inspection

Frequent cleaning may be required based on exposure to fire products or blood borne contamination. Washing of turnouts is to be done at the station in the turnout gear washer. Turnout gear shall not be washed at home, at a Laundromat or dry cleaned. Turnout gear with blood borne contamination may be first sprayed or rinsed with an approved product to help in removal of any stains, and then washed in a turnout gear washer.

For other than regularly scheduled inspections, if assigned gear becomes unserviceable, the individual shall notify the GFD Clothing Officer. Any unserviceable turnout clothing is to be given to the Clothing Officer, who will determine if the turnout gear is to be repaired or replaced.