

		<p>MUKWONAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT</p> <p>OPERATING PROCEDURES</p>	
Personal Protective Equipment		Approved by: Chief Jeffrey R. Stien	
POL #21	Draft Date: 04/05/09	Revision Date: 2/1/12, 3/19/12, 11/13/14	Effective Date: 3/22/12, 11/13/14

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum standard of protection for firefighters and EMS personnel when operating at training and incidents involving the Mukwonago Fire Department.

SCOPE: This procedure is to be followed by all officers and members of the Mukwonago Fire Department. Authority to deviate from this procedure rests with the officer in charge who will be responsible for the results of any deviation.

A. Personal Protective Equipment

1. All members operating at a training exercise or at a scene of an incident shall wear and use personal protective equipment as provided by NFPA 1971.
2. The Mukwonago Fire Department shall issue firefighting protective equipment to include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - a. Helmet with eye protection (goggles/face shield), ear flaps, chin strap, and accountability tags
 - b. Flashlight
 - c. Hood
 - d. Turnout coat
 - e. Reflective ANSI vest
 - f. Bunker pants with suspenders
 - g. Gut Belt and webbing
 - h. Rubber Boots
 - i. 2 sets of gloves or mittens

- j. Face piece for use with Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SBCA) provided on apparatus.
 - k. Chainsaw helmets and chaps are provided on apparatus
3. The department will cover replacement only at the time the product is worn or damaged beyond repair and can no longer be safely used.
 4. Leather boots may be purchased by the member and the department will pick up the cost as compared with the purchase of department issued boots.
 5. Self-purchased items must follow NFPA 1971 and be approved for use by a Chief Officer of the Mukwonago Fire Department. It will be member's responsibility to keep self-purchased items in good, working condition.
 6. Fire helmets are not designed to provide protection in the event of an apparatus crash and may contribute to cervical or other injuries. For this and in accordance with NFPA 1901, fire helmets shall not be worn inside a moving apparatus. Fire helmets shall be secured inside the cab or an external compartment.
 7. Any time it is appropriate for turnout gear to be worn, the only approved way to don turnout gear is with shorts/pants on under bunker pants. If wearing shorts, they must extend from the waist to a point at or just above the knee (NFPA 1975 - 6.2.2 Fire and Emergency Services Protective Clothing and Equipment).

B. Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

1. The decision to use Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is based on three guidelines:
 - a. No personnel shall be allowed to breathe smoke or contaminated/oxygen deficient air.
 - b. Use breathing apparatus until the atmosphere has been determined to be safe through sampling and monitoring.
 - c. If in doubt, use breathing apparatus.
2. At minimum, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be worn with face piece in place, using tank air, by all personnel when operating:
 - a. in an environment where contamination or oxygen deficient atmosphere are either present or suspected
 - b. in an unventilated, confined space

- c. in and above areas involved in fire
 - d. in areas subject to explosion or sudden contamination
3. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be worn and ready for use by all personnel operating on the fire ground in a stand-by or “ready-to-go mode”.

C. Cleaning and Inspection

1. All members will be subject to a bi-annual equipment inspection as well as an annual fit test of the Department issued SCBA face piece.
2. All members of the Mukwonago Fire Department shall be responsible for keeping their personal protective equipment clean, in good repair and in a constant state of readiness.
3. After an incident, members shall:
 - a. Inspect all personal protective equipment for damage or missing items
 - b. Brush, wipe down or launder any soiled protective gear
 - c. Return all personal protective equipment to a state of readiness
4. If any personal protective equipment becomes damaged, a repair form must be completed and the damaged item shall be taken out of service. Contact an Officer of the Department for assistance in repair or obtaining replacement equipment.

D. Cleaning Turnout Gear

1. Turnout gear is expected to be cleaned:
 - a. Every six (6) months **OR**;
 - b. Immediately following contamination by:
 - Fire (i.e. structure, wild land, training, etc.)
 - Contaminated with bodily fluids
 - Contact with hazardous chemicals (if determined safe to launder by Officer in Charge)
 - Or, presence of any offensive odor
2. The cleaning procedures for turnout gear are as follows:

- Remove suspenders and all items from pockets
- Separate layers of turnout gear and remove Drag Rescue Device (DRD)
- Turn inner liner inside-out
- Fasten all Velcro and clasps
- Place all turnout gear inside washer and set on permanent press cycle
- **DO NOT USE BLEACH UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**
- Hang all turnout gear to dry in the bay. Avoid all direct sunlight. Machine drying is not permitted.

E. Cleaning SCBA Face Piece

1. Members certified and qualified to wear and operate SCBA shall follow recommended care and cleaning procedures for the Department issued SCBA face piece.
 - a. The cleaning procedures for the SCBA face piece are as follows:
 - Short duration: If the face piece mask is worn for a short duration run (i.e. an investigation or a false alarm), use the disposable cleaning towelettes in the bay wash area to wipe down all areas of the face piece.
 - Long duration: If the face piece is worn for a long duration run (i.e. a structure fire, car fire or training exercise), completely wash the face piece using the cleaning solution in the bay wash area, rinse and hang to dry. Follow the recommended instructions on the bottle when using the cleaning solution.
 - b. After cleaning, inspect the following prior to putting the SCBA face piece back into service:
 - Make certain that all removable parts to the face piece have been returned to their proper location and are properly secured within the face piece.
 - Extend all straps.
 - Fully inspect the face piece for any missing/damaged parts. If the face piece is damaged or if removable parts are missing, a repair form must be completed and the face piece shall be taken out of service. Contact an Officer of the Department for assistance in repair or obtaining a new face piece.