

# FEBRUARY IS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT MONTH

## PPE WRITTEN PLAN

A hazard analysis for tasks members perform shall be used to develop these personal protective equipment (PPE) charts.

According to NFPA 1841, departments need to keep records of PPE ensembles including, member issued, date issued, manufacturers make, model, or series number, month and year of manufacture, and inspection records. All PPE and clothing must meet the standards in WAC 296-305-02001-02019.

PPE must be provided at no cost to members to protect them from the hazards to which the member is or is likely to be exposed.

Station/work uniforms if provided, shall meet the requirements of NFPA 1975. However, departments are not required to provide station/work uniforms for their members. Members shall not wear any clothing that is determined to be unsafe due to poor thermal stability or poor flame resistance when engaged in or exposed to the hazards of structural firefighting. The fire department shall inform members of the hazards of fabrics that melt, drip, burn, stick to the skin and cause burns to the wearer. (WFC Sample Policy 12.02.02. and 12.02.02.01)

## USE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING

Each individual member shall conduct a routine inspection of their PPE after each use. An advanced inspection by a qualified person must be conducted at least every 6 months.

Follow the specific manufacturer's instructions for care and use of the PPE provided. Basic cleaning procedures for helmets, glasses, ear protection, gloves, and boots are:

- Dust or wipe off dirt with a brush
- If necessary, use warm soapy water, rinse and dry thoroughly before use
- Store in a clean, dry place
- Have worn-out or poorly fitting equipment replaced
- Throw away PPE that has been involved in a fall or accident

Follow manufacturers recommendations for specific PPE, such as fall arrest harnesses, respirators, and welding gear.

## BASIC CLEANING PROCEDURES FOR FIREFIGHTING CLOTHING

Soiled or contaminated elements shall not be brought into the home, washed in home laundries, or washed in public laundries or dry cleaning facilities, unless the public laundry has a dedicated business to handle firefighting protective clothing.

If the fire department does its own cleaning, they shall follow the manufacturer's recommended cleaning procedure or the 2008 edition of NFPA 1851.

Contract cleaners shall demonstrate, to the organization's satisfaction, procedures for cleaning and decontamination that do not compromise the performance of firefighting protection clothing.

(WFC Sample Policy 12.02.01 for Inspection and Cleaning Procedures and Sample Policy 12.02.03)

|  | <br>ANSI Z87.1, 2003 Edition, WAC 296-305-02501 | <br>WAC 296-305-02004 | <br>NFPA 1977 2005 Edition | <br>NFPA 1977 2005 Edition | <br>NFPA 1971 2007 Edition | <br>NFPA 1971 1991 Edition | <br>NFPA 1977 2005 Edition | <br>SCBAs NFPA 1981 2007 Edition PASS DEVICE | <br>WAC 296-305 | <br>WAC 296-155 Part C-1 | <br>MUTC 2003 Revision 1 | <br>WAC 296-305-04001 | <br>Body Armor NIJ 0101.04A 2001 Edition | <br>WAC 296-305 |
|--|---|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| Using a Job Hazard Analysis for EACH TASK your Firefighters do, choose the correct Personal protective equipment to the right. Latest requirements for new or updated equipment are cited. |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Operating a Pump or any Equipment over 85 db   |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Structure Fire - Attacking Interior, Ventilation, RIC/ RIT, Search and Rescue  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Attacking Exterior Structure Fire  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Wildland Fires   |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Overhaul with no Monitoring  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Overhaul with air monitoring and results under the PELs  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Motor Vehicle Accident/ Extrication/Incident in Traffic  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Routine EMS Call   |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| EMS with Potential Highly Contagious Exposure  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Operating a Chainsaw   |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Training with 10' Fall Potential (excludes ladders)  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |
| Potential of responders being shot at  |   |                       |                            |                            |                            |                            |                            |  |                 |                          |                          |                       |  |                 |

After each use any elements that are soiled shall receive routine cleaning. Every six months, at a minimum, or if routine cleaning does not effectively clean the gear, gear shall receive advanced cleaning. Departments shall consult with the firefighting clothing manufacturers for instruction on drying gloves, boots, and other PPE. In the absence of manufacturers' instructions, dry gear by placing elements in an area with good ventilation and allowing them to dry thoroughly before re-use. As a general rule, do not dry in direct sunlight.

**REPAIR OF STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING CLOTHING**  
Repairs include any and all alterations, modifications, additions, deletions or any other change made to the manufacturer's PPE article. Repairs must be performed by **manufacturer or manufacturer recognized qualified individual.**

**NOTE:** Soiled or contaminated firefighting clothing can expose fire fighters to toxins and carcinogens that enter the body through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption. Repeated small exposures to some contaminants can add up over time and cause health problems, such as **CANCER.**

Toxins that a firefighter will come into contact with are found in soot, trapped within the fibers of soiled gear and equipment or absorbed into the materials themselves.

Clothing contaminated with blood or other body fluids presents a potential risk of a communicable disease being transmitted to the person coming into contact with the contaminated clothing system.

Regular and advanced cleaning can protect firefighters from negative health effects.

### HEARING LOSS PREVENTION PROGRAM

The purpose of our program is to prevent employee hearing loss by minimizing employee noise exposures. Our department will conduct member noise exposure monitoring or use industry gathered material to determine the member's actual exposure.

If exposure equals or exceeds 85 dBA TWA8 (identified by noise dosimetry, providing an average exposure over an 8-hour time period), we will provide hearing protection, training, and audiometric testing on an annual basis. In addition, at 90 dBa TWA, we will provide noise controls where feasible in non-emergency settings.

Although noise levels may exceed the 115 dBA ceiling limit for noise exposures during structural firefighting activities, or even the 140 dBC (fast response sound level meter, identifying almost instantaneous noise exposures),

#### MORE TRAINING REQUIRED:

- Activity:** Demonstrate proper use, donning, doffing, and cleaning each piece of PPE used.
- Activity:** Inspect and document all PPE every 6 months. Document results and dispose of all damaged equipment.

hearing protection that will survive these conditions and not interfere with other essential PPE may not always be available and is not required.

In station or training facilities, we will post warning signs and ensure that hearing protection is required at the entrances or boundaries of all well-defined work areas where members may be exposed to noise that equals or exceeds 115 dBA.

Our department provides members with an appropriate selection of hearing protectors: – The selection includes at least 2 distinct types (such as molded earplugs or earmuffs) for each exposed member in work station, non-emergency environment.

Our members will receive annual audiometric testing as described by WAC 296-817-400 that is supervised and reviewed by one of the following licensed or certified individuals:

We will review our program by using audiometric testing to identify hearing loss, which may indicate program deficiencies and take appropriate actions when found.

If there is a threshold shift found in our exposed members, we will evaluate the following member noise exposure measurements:

- We will evaluate existing noise controls in the work area for modification.
- We will provide additional selections of hearing protection and refit members as necessary.
- We may also provide additional member training on noise and the use of hearing protection.

(WFC Sample Policy 12.02.03.1)

Reference: WAC 296-305-02001, WAC 296-305-02002, WAC 296-305-02004, WAC 296-305-02012, WAC 296-305-02017, WAC 296-817

**Note:** Each firefighter engaged in structural firefighting requiring the use of SCBA shall wear and use a PASS device. (WFC Sample Policy 12.02.03.4). Each firefighter wearing body armor must have equipment that fits correctly and have training on the proper use and limitations of the body armor. (WFC Sample Policy 12.02.03.02)

| FEBRUARY SUGGESTED TRAINING SCHEDULE |                                      |                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                      | TRAINING SUGGESTION                  | DEPARTMENT ACTUAL TRAINING SCHEDULE |
| WEEK 1 DATE:                         | HYDRANT - PUMP OPERATIONS EVOLUTION  |                                     |
| WEEK 2 DATE:                         | PPE AND HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM |                                     |
| WEEK 3 DATE:                         | R.I.C / MAYDAY CLASSROOM             |                                     |
| WEEK 4 DATE:                         | R.I.C. EVOLUTION - EXIT AS A TEAM    |                                     |
| OPTIONAL FULL DAY:                   |                                      |                                     |
| OTEP DATE:                           |                                      |                                     |

#### RECORD KEEPING

Our department will create and retain records documenting noise exposures.

Exposure measurements required by this program must be kept for at least 2 years and for as long as we rely upon them to determine employee exposure.

Audiometric test records must be kept for the duration of employment for the affected members.

Our department will evaluate and document the noise impact from certain equipment and work stations by listing the:

Area or Equipment used, the monitoring type and results, and the recommended hearing protection and/or noise controls for the area or use of equipment.

#### MORE TRAINING REQUIRED:

- Activity:** Monitor areas and equipment for TWA noise exposure assessment.
- Activity:** Train members on noise exposure and use of required hearing protection.