**12.02.03 PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLE FOR STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING**

**1.0 REFERENCE**

WAC 296-305-02004

**2.0 POLICY**

**2.1** Face and eye protection shall be provided for and used by firefighters engaged in fire suppression and other operations involving hazards to the eye and face at all times when the face isn't protected by the full facepiece of the SCBA. Primary face and eye protection appropriate for a given specific hazard shall be provided for, and used by, members exposed to that specific hazard. Such primary face and eye protection shall meet the requirements of the 2003 edition of ANSI Z87.1. Face and eye protection shall be provided and used by members engaged in fire suppression and other operations involving hazards to the eye and face.

**2.2** Persons whose vision requires the use of corrective lenses or spectacles, and who are required by this standard to wear eye protection, shall wear goggles or spectacles of one of the following types:

1. Spectacles with protective lenses that provide optical correction.
2. Goggles that can be worn over corrective spectacles without disturbing the adjustment of the spectacles.
3. Goggles that incorporate corrective lenses mounted behind the protective lens.
4. When limitations or precautions are indicated by the manufacturer, they shall be transmitted to the user and care taken to see such limitations and precautions are strictly observed.

**2.3** The care, use, maintenance and limitations for any type of eye or face protection shall follow the manufacturers suggested recommendations.

**2.4** Goggles shall be inspected, cleaned and disinfected prior to being re-issued to other members.

**2.5** Helmet face shields shall meet the requirements of the 2000 edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting.

Note: The helmet face shield alone doesn't always provide adequate eye protection against flying particles, splash, gases and vapors. For known eye hazards, such as cutting with power saws, chopping, drilling and using extrication equipment, the face shield should be worn with additional eye protection.

2.5.1 For firefighters that don't have a helmet face shield, flexible or cushioned fitting goggles shall be provided.

2.5.2 Goggles shall consist of a wholly flexible frame, forming a lens holder or a rigid frame with integral lens or lenses, having a separate, cushioned fitting surface on the full periphery of the facial contact area.

2.5.3 Materials used shall be chemical-resistant, nontoxic, nonirritating and slow burning.

2.5.4 There shall be a positive means of support on the face, such as an adjustable headband of suitable material or other appropriate means of support to retain the frame comfortably and snugly in front of the eyes.

2.6 Hand protection. Firefighters' gloves shall, when worn with turnout clothing, provide protection to the wrist area. In turnout clothing where wristlet protection isn't provided firefighters' gloves shall be tight-fitting at the top.

2.6.1 Fire departments shall establish written policy and procedure for the care, use, cleaning, replacement or retirement criteria for gloves issued. XXXX follows the manufacturers recommendations for use, care, and cleaning or our gloves.

2.6.2 Firefighters' gloves used during structural firefighting operations including rescue of victims from fires or emergency medical operations where sharp or rough surfaces are likely to be encountered shall meet the requirements of the 2000 edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting.

Notes:

Firefighters' gloves aren't designed to provide protection against all environments. For gloves needed to fulfill a specific requirement see that specific section of this chapter. It is the intent of this section to provide protection from intrusion through the glove by certain chemicals and from bloodborne pathogens. Consult the glove manufacturers' recommendations.

Firefighters’ hands should be sized for compliance using the sizing chart specified in the 2000 edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting.

2.7 Body protection. Body protection shall be coordinated with torso, hand, head, foot, respiratory, and face protection as outlined in WAC 296-305-02001 through 296-305-02019 and 296-305-04001.

2.8 Foot protection. Protective footwear purchased after January 1, 2014, shall comply with the 2007 or later edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting.

2.8.1 Fire departments shall establish written policies and procedures on the use, maintenance, and retirement criteria for footwear in conjunction with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Cleaning Instructions:

Drying Instructions:

2.8.2 Firefighter footwear may be resoled, but upon resoling the footwear shall meet the requirements specified in this section.

2.9 Head protection. Firefighters who engage in or are exposed to the hazards of structural firefighting shall be provided with and use helmets that meet, as a minimum, the requirements of the 1987 edition of NFPA 1972, Standard on Helmets for Structural Fire Fighting.

2.9.1 Helmets purchased after January 1, 2014, shall comply with the 2007 or later edition of NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting.

Care:

Use:

Maintenance:

Cleaning:

Use:

Storage:

2.9.2 Helmet accessories shall not interfere with the function of the helmet or its parts, and shall not degrade the helmet's performance.

2.9.3 Firefighters shall follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding inspection, cleaning, painting, marking, and storage of helmets.

**3.0 DEFINITIONS**

N/A

**4.0 RESPONSIBILITY**

**4.1** VARIABLE shall be responsible for the purchase of all eye and face protection.

**4.2** VARIABLE shall be responsible for ensuring the routine inspection repair and replacement of all eye and face protection.

**4.3** Members shall be responsible for the routine maintenance of eye/face protection following the manufacturer's recommendations.

**5.0 GUIDELINES** N/A