

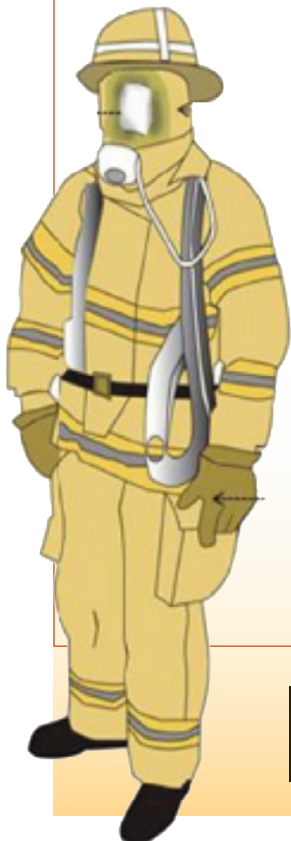
QUICK REACTION GUIDE

Recommended Guidelines for Selection, Care and Cleaning/Sanitization of Structural Fire Fighting Protective Clothing

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Use of structural fire fighter PPE for patient encounters should be a last resort. In case of an incidental exposure, this guide provides the proper care, cleaning/sanitization of structural fire fighter PPE.

The primary purpose of protective clothing is simply as a contamination shield to prevent later transfer of COVID-19 to mucous membranes through subsequent transfer from hand to the mouth, nose or eyes (auto- or self-inoculation).



Helmet Ear Covers – Consist of at least two material layers but typically do not have barrier layers and likely will only partially reduce penetration of aerosols.

Hoods – Knit hoods do not provide particulate blocking capabilities.

Respiratory Protection – Wear a minimum of N95 protection. In the absence of N95s, consider alternatives suggested at: www.emergencyresponsetips.com/papers

Eye and Face Protection – Any SCBA or other full facepiece already providing coverage to the face and eyes OR goggles per ANSI Z87.1

Wristlets – Unless incorporating a particulate-blocking layer, most do not have barrier layers and likely do not reduce penetration of aerosols.

Gloves – Wear examination gloves that meet ASTM standards or NFPA 1999 in place of structural or work gloves. Avoid any gloves that have absorptive materials.

Footwear – All footwear certified to NFPA 1971 are tested for viral penetration. Be sure to disinfect entire footwear element following potential exposure.

Protective garments, gloves, and footwear materials and seams used in products certified to NFPA 1971 are tested for viral penetration resistance with a diameter of 27 nm or larger. COVID-19 measures between 60 and 140 nm.

NOTE – Turnout clothing ensembles (garments, helmets, hoods, gloves and footwear) have multiple interfaces and closures that may permit some penetration of bio-aerosols, but they will likely significantly limit the exposures.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Turnout Gear

- Wherever possible, refer to manufacturer cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting instructions. Seek advice from the manufacturer on appropriate cleaning agents, sanitizers or disinfectants and processes and their limitations, if not addressed in the instructions.
- Clean and sanitize any element of structural firefighting protective clothing in accordance with procedures established in NFPA 1851. These procedures include:
 - Launder garments in a programmable, front-loading washer/ extractor that has ample capacity for the wash load.
 - Use a pre-soak stage of at least 10 minutes with an EPA- approved laundry sanitizer additive.
 - Use sanitizer at concentration and application per supplier instructions.
 - Follow the pre-soak with draining the washer/extractor and a 4-minute extraction step.
 - Wash garments with an appropriate detergent and multiple rinse cycles but apply specialized cleaning at the maximum wash temperature up to 140oF.
 - Dry garments by air drying, using a drying cabinet or applying machine drying on a no heat or air-dry option.
- Use an Independent Service Provider (ISP) for conducting, sanitization and specialized cleaning.

WARNING

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO KNOWN EFFECTIVE METHODS FOR FIELD DISINFECTION OF STRUCTURAL PPE TO CONTINUE ITS USE WITHOUT TAKING THE PPE OUT OF SERVICE. WHILE THERE ARE SOME POTENTIAL PRACTICES THAT ARE QUICKLY BEING INVESTIGATED, ANY APPROACH TO FIELD DISINFECT GEAR MUST BE EXERCISED WITH THE UTMOST CAUTION FOR POTENTIALLY COMPROMISING GEAR PERFORMANCE OR CREATING HEALTH ISSUES.



International Personnel
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