



Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to establish best practices concerning the issue, use and care of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for emergency service personnel.

Section 2: Scope

The guideline on the use of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) procedure is applicable to Lunenburg Regional Fire and Emergency Service personnel.

Section 3: Definitions:

PPE- Personal Protective Equipment

NFPA- National Fire Protection Association

MVC – Motor Vehicle Collision

IC – Incident Commander

SCBA- Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

RIT – Rapid Intervention Team

Front Line or Hot Zone Fire Fighter – Firefighters who have completed fire control or greater

Section 4: Directive:

1. All personnel shall be issued PPE consisting of turnout gear, helmets, coveralls, gloves, boots and hearing/eye protection meeting or exceeding NFPA standards at the time of manufacture.
2. All personnel shall be trained in house the correct way to don, doff, proper use and maintenance of all PPE prior to responding to any incident or external training exercise.
3. Personnel shall not respond to any incident unless the appropriate PPE for that incident is provided by the agency and is donned properly.
4. Personnel shall ensure all PPE (Turnout Gear, coveralls, boots, gloves) are properly fitting upon time of issue allowing for maximum protection and mobility.
5. Personnel shall inspect all PPE over upon receipt, if new recruit then to be inspected when issued, with a Sr Firefighter or Officer as per each description listed below
6. All turnout gear shall be cleaned as per manufacturer specifications and visually inspected as required or at least every 12 months



7. NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, mandates that structural firefighting ensembles undergo advanced cleaning at least twice a year and whenever they are exposed to products of combustion or become visibly soiled. This means that even if the gear looks clean, if it's been exposed to smoke or fire, it needs to be advanced cleaned.
8. When any deficiencies are found, the gear shall be immediately removed from service and tagged with required repairs, date of service removal and officer's name it was reported to.
9. All pieces of turnout gear shall be marked with the personnel ID as per their fire department's identification system (recommend name, initial or member's ID number) on the inside.

Section 5: Turnout Gear (Bunker Pants and Coats):

1. Turnout gear shall be inspected after each use checking for:
 - a) Closures working properly
 - b) Rips, holes or worn or compromised areas on the outer shell or within the lining
 - c) Soot, dirt and bodily fluids
 - d) Service date of gear for a front line or hot zone fire fighter (must be within 10 years of date of manufacturer)
2. Dirt, soot, hazardous materials and bodily fluids shall be removed by cleaning as per manufactures specifications.
3. Holes and/or rips are to be repaired. Broken fasteners replaced. PPE is to remained removed from service until done so.
4. Turnout gear shall be worn at:
 - a) Possible or Confirmed Fire incidents (with the exception of Wildland fire's, See Section 10: coveralls)
 - b) MVC
 - c) Public service calls
 - d) Any incident with the potential to require the use of SCBA
 - e) On land during Ice/ Water Rescue or Practice

Section 6: Helmets:



1. Helmet colour determines Rank, Officer, Position quickly. The following are the standard colours for the county:

a) WHITE

1. Chief
2. Deputy Chief
3. Assistant Deputy Chief

b) RED

1. Captains

c) YELLOW

1. Lieutenants

d) BLACK

1. All other Firefighters

e) BLUE

1. Scene Safety officer

Some departments use different colours, for certain roles, but may also use side arch rockers on helmets to identify the firefighter role.

2. Personnel shall properly adjust upon receiving per manufactures instructions so that it stays on the head offering maximum protection.

3. The helmet shall have a face shield, or NFPA approved goggles, and chinstrap in working order

4. All helmets shall be visually inspected in house and cleaned when soiled as per the manufactures specifications after each use. Look for:

- a) Cracks
- b) deep Scratches
- c) melted areas
- d) condition of visor/ goggles
- e) battery brightness of light if applicable (change or charge battery if required)
- f) condition of liner and webbing inside



5. If worn in a toxic area or was compromised (dropped, took a hard hit). Helmet shall be immediately removed from service, following procedure in **Section 4: directive 8**

6. Helmets Shall be worn during:
 - a) Response with turnout gear
 - b) Wildland/ Brush Fires
 - c) MVC
 - d) Any time there is a chance of a head injury eg: overhead danger, risk of falling...
 - e) General Public Service Calls
 - f) Ice/ Water Rescues or Practices

Section 7: Fire Fighting Gloves:

1. Gloves shall be inspected after every use for:
 - a) Cuts
 - b) holes.
 - c) Flammable/ Hazardous materials

2. Personnel shall ensure gloves are cleaned and dried well after each use.

3. Firefighting gloves shall be worn with:
 - With turnout gear
 - With coveralls

Section 8: NOMEX Hood:

1. All personnel shall be issued a Nomex hood.
2. The hood shall be inspected after every use for:
 - a) Holes
 - b) dirt

3. The hood shall be worn with:
 - a) SCBA (all times)
 - b) Wildland Fires

Section 9: Fire Fighting Boots:

1. All boots shall be inspected after every use for:
 - a) Cuts
 - b) Holes



- c) Cracks
 - d) Embedded foreign objects
2. If any of these are present remove from service immediately following procedure in **Section 4: directive 8**
3. The firefighting boots shall be worn with:
- a) Turnout Gear
 - b) Coveralls

Section 10: NOMEX or Fire-retardant cotton Coveralls:

1. All coveralls shall be inspected after every use for:
 - a) rips
 - b) tears
 - c) bodily fluids
 - d) dirt
 - e) hazardous/ flammable materials.
 - f) Properly working fasteners
2. Dirt, soot, hazardous materials and bodily fluids shall be removed by cleaning as per the manufacturer specifications.
3. Holes and/or rips are to be repaired. Broken fasteners replaced. PPE is to remain removed from service until done so.
4. The coveralls may be worn during:
 - a) Wildland fires
 - b) Medical Responses
 - c) public functions (equipment displays, open houses, parking attendants etc.)
 - d) training sessions as permitted by the IC
 - e) MVC's outside incident area if weather conditions allow
 - f) Pump/ Engine operators
 - g) general station duties
 - h) on land during Ice/ Water rescue or Practice

Section 11: Safety Glasses:



1. All personnel should be issued with a pair of CSA approved safety glasses.
2. The glasses may be worn during:
 - a) medical responses
 - b) MVC's (instead of the helmet face shield/ goggles if conditions are safe to do so)
 - c) training sessions if permitted by the IC
3. Personnel, whose vision is so impaired that they cannot see adequately without prescription lens, shall not have to wear nonprescription safety glasses. However, personnel are encouraged to have either glasses with non-shattering safety lenses or prescription safety glasses.

Section 12: Medical Gloves:

1. All personnel shall carry at least one pair of supplied medical gloves in their turnout gear, coveralls, and medical response clothing.
2. Medical gloves shall be worn during
 - a) all medical responses, to be donned prior to leaving the apparatus
 - b) MVC's under the firefighting gloves, to be donned prior to leaving the apparatus
 - c) Anytime there is a high risk of transfer of bodily fluids
3. All gloves shall be removed:
 - a) When changing patients
 - b) As soon as the risk to yourself has ceased
 - c) prior to entering the apparatus to leave the scene
4. All gloves shall be properly disposed of into a plastic garbage bag at the scene tied shut then properly disposed of upon return to the hall and not left at the scene of the incident.