

Polson City/Rural FIRE DEPARTMENT Operating Guidelines

Issued By: Chief Thomas J. Maloney

Created May 11, 2006

Revised By: Chief John Ed Fairchild April 9, 2011

200.08 Protective Clothing Care Procedures

Page 01 of 07

Purpose:

To establish procedure for proper cleaning, care and storage of protective clothing that is issued to each member of the department. To try and comply with NFPA1851.

Scope:

This procedure is to be followed for cleaning and storage and care of all clothing. This procedure establishes guidelines for cleaning and storage of all protective clothing while not in use and cleaning of clothing after being soiled from firefighting activities.

Goal: The hope would be to get the best life out of the protective clothing that is issued. Each member will be responsible to check the protective clothing issued to them after each use. A sheet will be filled out every 6 months to ensure documentation that the protective clothing is being checked. It will be the responsibility of each member to complete the forms and make notations of damaged clothing. The form will be kept in the personnel file.

Storage of Equipment:

All protective gear shall be stored in neat and orderly fashion as to allow for immediate use when called for an emergency. It is strongly recommended that all issued equipment be stored at the station. There are times when members may keep the equipment in their vehicle in the proper storage bag.

Note: It is recommended when responding to an emergency, that each member use the equipment issued to them and not use equipment out of someone else's locker.

- Those members who respond on apparatus from any of the stations will hang their gear at the station in the assigned locker area. Each station has wall hooks to hang coats and helmets, and storage area below for boots and bunker pants. These areas are to be kept neat and orderly by those individuals who are assigned lockers.

It is extremely important not to store gear in an area where it will be in direct contact with sunlight. Ultra-violet rays damage the fibers of Nomex and PBI materials and destroy the clothing.

Storing clothing in a vehicle with window tint film is not acceptable as the damaging ultra-violet rays pass through the film and will cause damage to the clothing. A cover of some type must be used in this type of storage.

Cleaning and Laundry Instructions:

After each incident as soon as possible, either on scene or at the station the clothing will be brushed off with the supplied scrub brush that is either on the truck or by the washing machine. At this time it will be determined if the clothing can be cleaned by just the area affected cleaning or needing to be cleaned by machine wash.

All protective clothing shall be properly cleaned and dried after use to prevent build up of contaminants. Contaminants such as carbon penetrate fibers of Nomex and PBI which will decrease the flame retardant characteristics of the materials.

- **Helmets:** Helmet outer shells shall be cleaned with all purpose cleaners such as "409" to remove tar, carbon and smoke residue. The outer shell may be waxed with standard car wax to make future cleaning easier. The inner suspension system shall be cleaned with liquid detergent (Ivory) or clothes washing detergent. Helmet liner shall be thoroughly dried prior to storing.
- **Hoods and gloves:**
Hoods and gloves shall be machine washed on the 29 minute wash cycle 07, with protective clothing washing detergent. Hoods may be place in the dryer on low heat. Gloves will be hung to dry it at all possible.
- **Coats and pants outer shells:**
Coats and pants outer shells shall be washed by machine on the 29 minute wash cycle 07 and hung to dry. The inner liner and outer shell shall be separated when laundered. Outer shells shall be turned inside out, all snaps, and hooks snapped or hooked together if possible before placing in the machine. The Velcro strip will be covered with another piece of Velcro that is on the washing machine before placing in the machine. This helps to prevent damage to fasteners and the washing equipment. Do not over stuff machine, one set of outer coat shells and inner liners may be put in the machine.
- **Coat and pant inner liners:**
Coat and pant inner liners shall be washed by machine on the 29 minute wash cycle 07 and hung to dry. After removing from the outer shell turn liner inside-out and put into laundry bag prior to placing in machine.
- **Boots:** This department issues both the rubber boot and the leather boots.
 - Rubber boots are to be inspected and cleaned after each use. Look for any cuts, tears or abrasions in the boot and report all damage that needs to be fixed or replaced. They are to be scrubbed and hosed off after each use and cleaned up with a mild detergent.
 - Leather boots are to be inspected and cleaned after each use. Look for cuts, tears or abrasions in the boot and report damage that needs to be fixed or replaced. They are to be scrubbed and hosed off after each use. Leather boots that are completely soaked must be **air dried**. Once a year the leather boot must have a good coat of Kiwi camp dry sprayed onto the boot to help keep them flexible and useable. When the Kiwi camp dry is used it must be reported on the 6 month report. The Kiwi camp dry is kept on top of the washing machine in the rest room at station #1.

Laundry Detergent:

PFD provided protective clothing detergent or any commercial non-phosphorous detergent shall be used. Approximately 10 oz. (1/4 Cup) of liquid Tide detergent will wash a complete load.

NEVER USE BLEACH. Bleach destroys fibers of Nomex and PBI and shall not be used.

Care and Cleaning of Washer and Dryer:

Members are allowed to use PFD owned washing equipment but are required to maintain such equipment. Keep exterior areas clean of dirt and spilled detergent. **ALWAYS CLEAN LINT SCREEN.**

Repairs of Protective Clothing:

Any rips, burn holes or damage to protective clothing shall be reported immediately to the department equipment officer. If damage is not repairable in house, it will be sent for repair.

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING ISSUED TO YOU IS FOR YOUR PROTECTION. THIS EQUIPMENT IS EXPENSIVE BUT IS ALSO OF GREAT VALUE IN PROTECTING YOUR LIFE. FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, TAKE THE TIME TO CLEAN, PREPARE, AND REPAIR YOUR EQUIPMENT.

Note: Since this department does use Globe PPE and others we will try and comply with the all the cleaning requests of Globe and NFPA 1851. Please notice the Technical data sheet from Globe.

ADVANCED INSPECTION – PANTS—Members Name:_____

Serial # _____

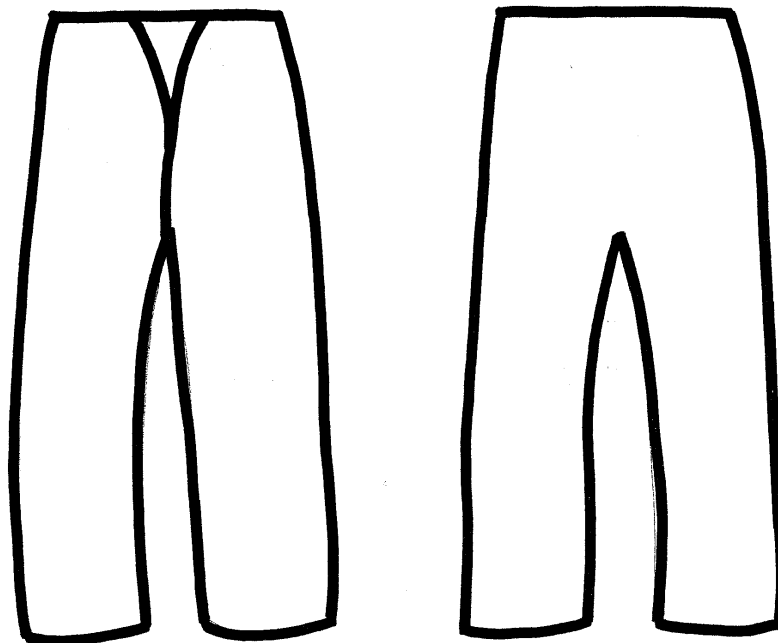
Inspected by: _____

Date of Mfg.: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Pass or Fail	Pant Shell	Pant Liner	Comments
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Rips, Tears, Cuts, etc	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Damaged or Missing Hardware	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Flame/Heat Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Stitching/Seam Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Quilt Stitching Integrity		<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Fabric Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Reflective Trim Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Reflective Trim Reflectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Label Integrity/Legibility	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Hook and Loop Functionality	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Liner Attachment Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Closure System Functionality	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Accessory Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Correct Assembly and size of shell, liner	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	

Please mark on drawing where repair is needed.



ADVANCED INSPECTION – JACKETS -- Members name: _____

Serial # _____

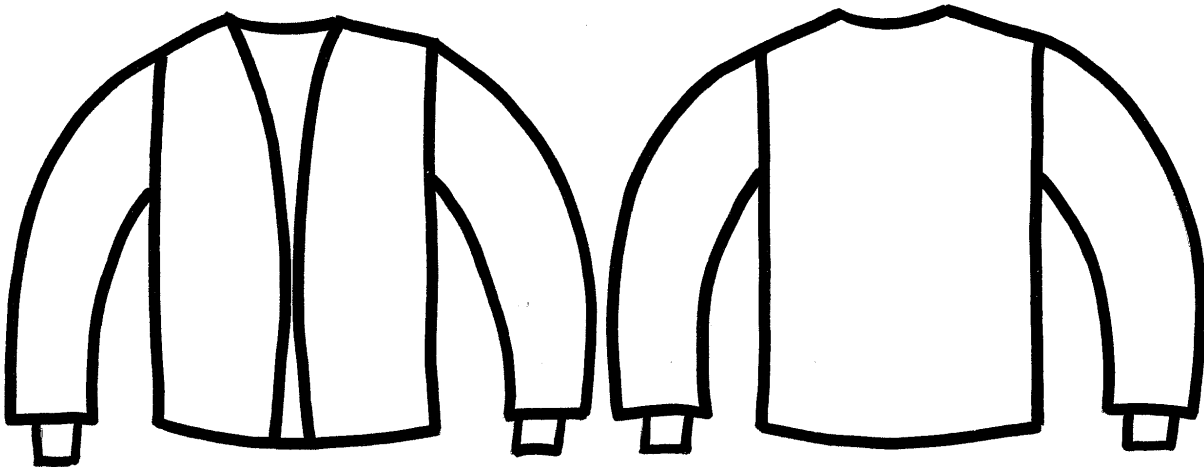
Inspected by: _____

Date of Mfg.: _____

Date of Inspection: _____

Pass or Fail	Jacket Shell	Jacket Liner	Comments
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Rips, Tears, Cuts, etc	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Damaged or Missing Hardware	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Flame/Heat Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Stitching/Seam Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Quilt Stitching Integrity		<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Fabric Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Wristlet Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Reflective Trim Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Reflective Trim Reflectivity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Label Integrity/Legibility	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Hook and Loop Functionality	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Liner Attachment Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Closure System Functionality	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Accessory Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Correct Assembly and size of shell, liner, DRD	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
DRD cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
DRD Integrity/ Physical damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		

Please mark on drawing where repair is needed:



Helmet ADVANCE INSPECTION Hood/Gloves/Helmet/Boot

Member Name: _____

Serial # _____ Inspected by: _____

Date of Mfg.: _____ Date of inspection: _____

Pass or Fail	Hood	Glove	Helmet	Boots	Comments
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Rips, Tears, Cuts, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Flame/Heat Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Stitching/Seam Integrity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Loss of Elasticity	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F			
Face opening adjustment	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F				
Shrinkage	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F			
Liner Attachment Systems/Damage		<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Loss of flexibility			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Damage to shell – bubbling /warping/soft spots etc.			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Damage to retention/suspension system			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Functionality of retention/suspension			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Faceshield/goggles missing components			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Faceshield/goggles scratching/discoloration			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Faceshield/goggles functionality			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Reflective Trim Damage			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Impact cap damage			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F		
Accessories for compliance			<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Exposed or deformed steel to/mid sole/shank				<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Excessive tread wear				<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Heel counter failure				<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	
Closure System Functionality				<input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> F	

Reference Material:

NFPA 1851, Selection Care, and Maintenance of Structural Fire Fighting Protective Ensemble, 2001

Edition

NFPA 1971, Protective Ensemble for Structural Fire Fighting, 2000 Edition

Explanatory Material

Routine Inspection – This inspection shall be conducted by the individual member after each use based on department guidelines and according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

Advanced Inspection – This inspection may be conducted by members of the organization who have received training in the inspection of structural firefighting protective clothing and equipment based on department guidelines and according to manufacturer’s recommendations. . It shall be conducted at a minimum of every 6 months or whenever routine inspections indicate a problem exists.

Routine Cleaning – This type of cleaning is conducted by the end user based on department guidelines and manufacturer’s recommendations, without taking the element out of service.

Advanced Cleaning – This type of cleaning can be conducted by a member of the organization who has received training in the cleaning of structural fire fighting protective clothing and equipment based on department guidelines and according to manufacturer’s recommendations. This type of cleaning shall be conducted every six months at a minimum and advanced cleaning shall be conducted for items that have been issued, used, and are soiled. Advanced cleaning can also be accomplished by contract cleaning.

Specialized Cleaning – This type of cleaning can be conducted by a member of the organization who has received training in the cleaning of has received training in the cleaning of protective clothing and equipment based on department guidelines and according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

This worksheet does not list all of the material contained in the referenced standards. Please refer to the appropriate standard for additional information.