

## **BLACKWOOD FIRE COMPANY OPERATING GUIDELINE**

### **7.11 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY - PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) CARE AND MAINTENANCE**

- 7.11.1 All members are responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned PPE.
- 7.11.2 PPE shall be periodically inspected by the Line Officers and/or the Safety Committee for cleanliness and serviceability.
- 7.11.3 Any PPE found heavily soiled or otherwise unacceptable shall be tagged and the member shall have 7 days to launder the PPE IAW Attachment 7.10.1.
- 7.11.4 After any use of their PPE, members should also perform an inspection. Heavily soiled PPE shall, as a minimum measure, be rinsed thoroughly upon return to station and laundered within 7 days.
- 7.11.5 All PPE shall be laundered a minimum of once every six (6) months.
- 7.11.6 Any damage or discrepancies found by the member which he cannot correct shall be reported to the appropriate line officer for further action.
- 7.11.7 When operating at an incident where PPE may be exposed to chemical contaminants, members shall make every reasonable attempt to avoid contact with the material. This can be accomplished through use of chemical protective clothing or by standing clear of the material.
- 7.11.8 PPE exposed to chemical contaminants shall be placed inside a double plastic bag and sealed. A sign shall be affixed to the bag indicating the members name, date of incident, and material exposed to.
- 7.11.9 The Safety Officer shall evaluate any exposure to chemical contaminants and provide guidance in further decontamination measures.
- 7.11.10 PPE exposed to blood or other bodily fluids shall be laundered immediately upon return to station IAW OG# 7.7.

## **Attachment 7.11.1**

### **Procedures for cleaning and laundering Personal Protective Equipment**

Helmets - Outer shell can be cleaned with a mild soap and water solution and rinsed with water. Face shields can then be cleaned with glass cleaner. Ear flaps should be separated from helmet and washed with coat, pants, etc...

Boots - Wash with mild soap and water or a dilute degreaser solution as necessary. Rinse with water.

Coats, pants, gloves, hoods, ear flaps - Separate liner and shell, fasten all hardware and turn shell inside out. Heavily soiled coats, pants, etc.. shall be rinsed and pretreated prior to laundering.

1. While the washing machine is filling with hot water, add 1/2 cup of liquid oxygenated bleach (do not use chlorinated bleach) and 1 cup of liquid detergent.
2. Fill washing machine to highest water level.
3. Add garments to be washed (1 coat, pants, gloves, hood, and ear flaps only).
4. Set washing machine to regular cycle.
5. After cycle is complete, reset timer to beginning of cycle and wash a second time with no detergent.
6. Remove garments from washing machine and hang in engine room to dry.

Spot Cleaning - Precleaner can be used to clean light spots and stains on PPE. Squirt precleaner once or twice onto the soiled area. Gently rub fabric together until a light foam forms on the surface. Carefully rinse with cool water.

Pre treating - Apply liquid detergent directly onto the soiled area. Gently rub fabric together until a light foam forms on the surface. Place garment in washer and add specified amounts of detergent. Complete laundering as specified above.

### **Acceptable Cleaning Products**

Detergents - Liquid Wisk, Liquid Tide, Liquid Cheer, Liquid Fab.

Oxygenated Bleaches - Liquid Clorox 2, Liquid Vivid.

Spot Cleaning and Pre treating - Liquid Spray and Wash, Liquid Shout, Liquid Tide.