

BLACKWOOD FIRE COMPANY OPERATING GUIDELINE

7.1 FIREFIGHTER SAFETY – STRUCTURAL FIREFIGHTING PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

- 7.1.1 Defined - Helmet on with chin strap in place, coat on and fastened, pants on and fastened, boots worn gloves and protective hood worn.
- 7.1.2 Protective clothing shall be worn as defined for response to all emergency incidents and shall be in place prior to mounting the apparatus. Note: Helmets and gloves may be donned after arrival.
- Exception: Drivers may elect to don their coats immediately after arrival at the scene.
- Exception: Minimum for EMS First Responder incidents is the station uniform. Personnel not in station uniform will wear a minimum of bunker pants and boots.
- 7.1.3 The IC shall use discretion on the level of protective clothing required after members arrive at an incident.
- 7.1.4 The OIC of a training activity may use discretion on the level of protective clothing required.

NOTE

MEMBERS INVOLVED IN ACTUAL FIREFIGHTING, OR STANDING BY FOR A FIRE, WHETHER AT AN ACTUAL INCIDENT OR TRAINING SESSION, SHALL HAVE ALL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING IN PLACE. THIS RULE IS NOT DISCRETIONARY.

- 7.1.5 While returning from an incident or training session, members may doff their PPE. If an emergency assignment is received all members shall don PPE before responding.
- 7.1.6 Each member is required to keep their assigned protective clothing clean and serviceable. Tests show that dirt, and products of combustion significantly affect the protective properties of the equipment.
- 7.1.7 Any problems with protective clothing should be reported to the officer in charge of same.

- 7.1.8 Members shall remove protective clothing from stations only for official functions related to the operation of this Company. Functions include: Approved training schools and programs, performance of Company business while using Company/District apparatus, and District employees in the performance of their jobs. Protective clothing shall be returned at completion of activity.
- 7.1.9 Members shall utilize only protective clothing issued to them unless they have a standing, mutual agreement with another member.
- 7.1.9.1 Members may elect to purchase and utilize select items of PPE. PPE purchased must be equivalent in quality/certification and appearance to District issued PPE.
- 7.1.10 The Fire District is not liable for loss or damage to personally owned PPE.
- 7.1.11 The use of personally owned PPE is solely at the discretion of the Chief.