



OGLETHORPE COUNTY FIRE RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Use of Full Protective Clothing and Equipment

SECTION/TOPIC: Emergency Operations

ISSUE DATE: March 2, 2023

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 SCOPE

1.1 This guideline is applicable to all firefighters responding to fires or involved in fire drills.

2.0 PURPOSE:

2.1 Safety begins with the correct wearing of full protective clothing. This cannot be overemphasized. While helmets, hoods, gloves, turnout coats/pants, boots, gloves, and SCBAs protect firefighters from injury, they also allow firefighters to be more efficient.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- 3.1 All firefighters shall wear full turnout gear, including helmet, protective hood, turnout coat/pants, boots, gloves, and SCBA when required at each incident.
- 3.2 All firefighters shall only wear turnout gear that has been issued by Oglethorpe County Fire Rescue (OCFR).
 - 3.2.1 Substitution or alteration of protective clothing/equipment issued by OCFR is prohibited.
 - 3.2.2 Firefighters who wish to employ additional protective clothing/equipment shall not do so unless prior written approval is obtained from the department leadership.
 - 3.2.3 Any such additional protective clothing/equipment shall meet or exceed NFPA 1971 standards.
- 3.3 Full turnout gear shall be donned either prior to boarding responding apparatus or after the apparatus has arrived at the destination.
 - 3.3.1 No firefighter is to don any protective equipment, including helmet, hood, turnout coat/pants, boots, gloves, or SCBA while riding to the scene on the apparatus or in a personal vehicle.

4.0 GUIDELINES

- 4.1 Boots – boots will be worn at all times by the firefighter.
- 4.2 Bunker Pants – firefighters provided with bunker pants will properly secure the Velcro bib and adjust the belt for a comfortable fit.
- 4.3 Turnout Coat – the inside flap of the coat must be secured before the outside fasteners are employed. The collar of the coat must be turned up and the flap across the front of the collar fastened.

- 4.4 Helmet – the helmet must fit snugly on the firefighter’s head. Where appropriate, firefighters may utilize the chinstrap and either the earflaps or a Nomex hood. The face shield should be kept in the downward position.
- 4.5 Gloves – gloves will be worn at all times by the firefighter.
 - 4.5.1 Extrication gloves are to be worn during extrication activities only.
- 4.6 Hoods – hoods will be worn at all times by the firefighter.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 All protective turnout gear must be inspected by the firefighter after every response for signs of wear or damage.
 - 5.1.1 Firefighters will report any signs of wear or damage to the officer in charge and shall seek replacement gear.
- 5.2 Proper storage, security, and care is the responsibility of the firefighter the gear has been issued to.
- 5.3 All county-wide or station equipment and protective equipment shall be documented on a Fire Inventory Form.
- 5.4 The Station Chief will conduct an inventory of the fire station and fire apparatus annually. This inspection will ensure that all equipment and protective clothing are accounted for and meets NFPA 1500 standards.
- 5.5 Protective clothing will be worn within 50 feet of a burning structure, hazardous area, or when entering structures that have been subjected to appreciable fire damage after the fire has been extinguished.
 - 5.5.1 Full protective clothing will be worn at all times when entering a burning structure or toxic environment.