

## **A. Egg Harbor Fire Department and First Responders Standard Operating Guidelines**

**SUBJECT: TURNOUT GEAR ISSUANCE & MAINTENANCE**

**SOG 104**

**PURPOSE:** To clearly define the policy on turnout gear issuance and maintenance.

**SCOPE:** This policy shall apply to all members of the Egg Harbor Fire Department.

### **POLICY**

The Egg Harbor Fire Department (EHFD) shall issue personal protective equipment to all members engaged in Fire and EMS services. The EHFD shall monitor and replace any issued gear that is damaged or destroyed and will seek to maintain protective clothing which meets current NFPA Guidelines.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **A. The following is equipment issued by the officers to members of the EHFD:**

1. Fire Suppression:
  - a. Helmet with face shield and chin straps
  - b. Bunker Coat
  - c. Bunker Pants
  - d. Suspenders
  - e. Boots
  - f. Fire Fighting Gloves
  - g. Accountability Tags
  - h. Hood
  - i. High Visibility Vest
  - j. Flashlight
  - k. SCBA face piece
2. First Responders:
  - a. Medical Kit
  - b. Defibrillator
  - c. Oxygen Cylinder & Regulator
  - d. Accountability Tags
  - e. High Visibility Vest

#### **B. Equipment Prohibitions:**

1. Members will not be allowed to alter any issued company equipment without the express permission of the Fire Chief or his designee.

SOG 104: Page 1 of 4

2. Members shall not remove issued equipment from the station to carry in personal vehicles without authorization from the Fire Chief or his designee.

**B. Protective Equipment Purchased by members:**

1. Members may purchase firefighting or EMS protective gear for use in the Fire/EMS services of the EHFD. All items must comply with NFPA Guidelines. All items will conform to EHFD uniform guidelines. The following items must be approved by a majority vote of the appropriate service officers before it may be placed in service:
  - a. Helmet with face shield or other eye protection and chin strap;
  - b. Bunker Coat
  - c. Bunker Pants
  - d. Boots
  - e. Firefighting gloves
  - f. Firefighting hoods
  - g. EMS protective wear
2. The following items do not require officer approval and may be placed in service upon purchase:
  - a. Work gloves
  - b. Ear protection
  - c. Small tools
  - d. Flashlights

**C. Egg Harbor Fire Department Standards**

1. In addition to meeting or exceeding NFPA guidelines, the EHFD has established gear standards insuring uniformity and consistency. Officers Helmets will be colored accordingly:
  - Chief & Assistant Chief – White
  - Captains – Red
  - Lieutenants – Yellow
2. All helmets with the exception of the above will be black in color, as provided by the officers.
3. Helmets will have the appropriate rocker.  
Member helmets will indicate the highest level of EMS training if applicable.
4. The officers may remove any gear from the rack that fails to meet EHFD standards, or is in serious need of repair. Notification to the member must be made before the gear is moved. Arrangements will be made to replace the damaged gear or assign EHFD approved gear to the member.

## **D. Protective Gear Care and Maintenance**

1. It is the responsibility of each member to maintain the protective equipment in a clean and serviceable manner.
2. Turnout coats and pants shall be inspected and cleaned after each use. Soiled or contaminated turnout gear shall not be brought into the home, washed in home laundries, or washed in public laundries unless the public laundry has a dedicated business to handle firefighting protective clothing. Commercial dry cleaning is also not an approved method for cleaning of gear.
3. Machine washing of turnout gear.
  - a. Detachable liners should be removed from the shell and laundered separately.
  - b. All closures should be fastened: Velcro® hook tape covering Velcro® loop tape, hooks and dees fastened, zippers zipped and snaps closed. It is imperative that you cover the hook portion of all hook and loop to prevent snagging during laundering.
  - c. Do not overload the washing machine, do not use softeners, and NEVER use chlorine bleach. It is important that the water temperature not exceed 105°F.
  - d. Use a liquid detergent. It is important that the cleaning solution have a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH.
4. Bunker gear that has been contaminated with biological agents shall be isolated, bagged, and tagged. The contaminated gear shall be removed from service and sent to an appropriate station for cleaning.
5. Decontamination of turnout gear. For extreme contamination with products of combustion, fire debris or body fluids, removal of the contaminants by flushing with water as soon as possible is necessary, followed by appropriate cleaning. In the case of blood borne pathogens, recommended decontamination procedures include using a .5 to 1% concentration of Lysol®, or a 3-6% concentration of stabilized hydrogen peroxide. Liquid glutaraldehyde, available through commercial sources, will also provide high to intermediate levels of disinfectant activity. Decontamination may not be possible when protective clothing is contaminated with chemical or biological agents. When decontamination is not possible, the garments should be discarded in accordance with local, state and federal regulations. Garments that are discarded should be destroyed.

6. All turnout gear shall be inspected at a minimum of every 12 months, or whenever routine inspections indicate that a problem may exist. The inspections shall be conducted by the member in charge of turnout gear or his/her designee.
7. Gloves may be washed by hand or machine.
8. Helmet face shields should be cleaned with a mild non-abrasive soap.
9. Boots shall be cleaned after any call in which they are soiled.
  - a. Use a rag with warm water to wash any dirt off and then rinse thoroughly. Avoid using any soap or detergents, as this will reduce the water resistance of the leather. More persistent stains may be rubbed off with a silicone liquid. Be sure the leather is dry first
  - b. Silicone liquid may be applied. Air-dry after treatment. Do not use excessive heat. This application will also enhance the water resistance of the leather. Wax shoe polish may be used, but use sparingly as a wax build-up may reduce the flame resistance of the leather. Avoid oils as this may also reduce the leather flame-retardant properties.
10. Any gear damaged or destroyed as a result of Fire or EMS activities will be replaced or repaired by the EHFDD.
11. Members will be responsible for any gear they deliberately damage or destroy.