

# San Mateo County Fire Service POLICIES AND STANDARDS MANUAL

Title: Emergency Response Uniforms

Policy No. 2002-01

Adopted 04/01/02

Revised 09/27/06

**Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a standard guideline for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) worn at the scene of an emergency by fire personnel.

**Policy:** It is the policy of the San Mateo County Fire Chiefs that all fire officers, fire companies, and support personnel involved in emergency scene operations be properly protected in full PPE as required by the type of incident including proper fire helmet identification.

**Background:** Personnel safety and accountability at the scene of an emergency is of the utmost importance. One of the most important safety tools is a person's Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). This policy establishes a minimum standard for ***all*** personnel that are performing duties at the scene of a potential IDLH (Immediate Danger to Life and Health) emergency or around the operational area of a hazardous incident.

## **Procedures:**

1. Full Turnouts shall be defined to include the following; turnout jacket, turnout pant, safety boots, helmet, helmet shield identifying rank, agency and assigned apparatus, flash hood, structure gloves, eye protection and SCBA when required.
2. Responses to all reported vehicle accidents, hazardous materials incidents, hostile fires (except wildland/grass), and smoke or alarm investigation in a building shall require Full Turnouts to be worn by fire first responder personnel.
3. Chief Officers and Fire Personnel on the scene of an incident shall have full PPE immediately available. When entering, or operating in an IDLH atmosphere, or performing duties in and around the operational area of a hazardous incident shall Full Turnouts shall be worn.
4. Helmet Shields shall identify agency designation, rank, and appropriate apparatus assigned. Helmet shield designators shall match your current apparatus assignment.
5. The following standards will apply for fire helmets:
  - a. Chief Officers – white helmet, white reflective tetrahedrons-Shield will display Battalion assignment.

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- b. Fire Captains – black or red helmet, red reflective tetrahedrons – Shield will display agency name, rank and current apparatus assignment.
  - c. Firefighter/Engineers/Drivers – black or yellow helmet, lime or yellow reflective tetrahedrons-Shield will display, agency name, rank and current apparatus assignment.
  - d. Fire Prevention Personnel – black or yellow helmet, green reflective tetrahedrons- Shield will display, agency name, rank and current apparatus assignment.
  - e. Any paramedic shall have the “Blue Star of Life” shown on each side of the helmet. A total of (2).
6. Wildland PPE will be used for vegetation/wildland firefighting and/or for necessary rescues, where Turnout PPE may be impractical for that application as approved by the Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer. Wildland Personal Protective Equipment shall be defined to include the following; Nomex or cotton jacket and pants, (double layer protection), safety boots, helmet, shroud, wildland gloves, eye protection, web belt, fire shelter, canteen, and airway protection.
  7. Technical Rescues and medical emergency incidents where turnout PPE may prove to be impractical, may wear a combination of turnouts, wildland, medical jackets and daily station uniform as approved by the Incident Commander or Scene Safety Officer.
  8. **ON THE SCENE OF AN INCIDENT THE SAFETY OFFICER SHALL SETTLE ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS POLICY.**