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**C-1 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)****PURPOSE**

To insure that Central Zone personnel utilize the proper personal protection during all operations in which they may encounter dangerous situations and environments.

**BACKGROUND**

The Central Zone Fire Departments, as Employers, have an obligation to provide PPE and shall adopt and use practices which are adequate for the safety and health of its Employees. This policy is the mandate for all Employees to follow in the use of protective equipment.

Safety specifications shall be maintained in accordance to agency-specific Policies and Procedures.

**DEFINITIONS**

**NFPA**-National Fire Protection Association.

**FULL STRUCTURAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)** - Shall consist of NFPA 1971 compliant structural helmet with eye protection and ear flaps, turnout coat, turnout pants, turnout boots, gloves, protective hood and NFPA 1981 compliant self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with mask.

**MODIFIED STRUCTURAL PPE**- Shall consist of NFPA 1971 compliant structural helmet with eye protection and ear flaps, turnout coat, turnout pants, turnout boots, gloves and protective hood.

**WILDLAND PPE** - Shall consist of a NFPA 1977 compliant jacket, pants or overpants, helmet, eye protection, gloves, leather boots, and NFPA 1977 compliant fire shelter. NFPA 1975/1977 dual compliant pants may be used in conjunction with or in place of wildland overpant.

**POLICY**

The appropriate PPE for the type of call being responded to shall be donned prior to responding, not enroute or upon arrival at scene.

The following are the required minimum levels of personal protection required for specific types of incidents:

**MEDICAL AID INCIDENTS** - All personnel shall protect themselves from patient blood and body fluids. Medical aid calls require the use of medical aid gloves whenever there is a potential for contact with a patient or a patient's body fluids. Personnel shall use safety glasses and / or protective masks when eye, mouth, and/or face protection is warranted. Exposed arm protection shall also be utilized when skin protection is warranted.

**FIRE INCIDENTS (Non Vegetation)** - All personnel shall don Full Structural PPE until directed otherwise by the Incident Commander.

**VEGETATION FIRES** - All personnel shall don wildland PPE.

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**MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS** - All personnel involved in extrication, suppression, or hazard mitigation shall don a minimum of Modified Structural PPE for visibility, protection from blood / body fluids, sharp objects, and hazardous materials. If fire is present, or the potential for a fire is present, all personnel shall be in full Structural PPE until directed otherwise by the Incident Commander. Personnel providing only patient packaging and transport may perform those duties wearing appropriate medical PPE authorized by the Incident Commander.

NOTE: If PPE becomes contaminated during an incident, it shall be removed from service immediately and washed as soon as possible.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS** - Utilize full Structural PPE at any hazardous materials incident.

**HELICOPTER OPERATIONS** - Engine company personnel shall wear protective clothing that is appropriate for the type of incident. In the case of response to a helicopter landing or takeoff, modified structural PPE should be worn at a minimum.

**SPECIAL HAZARD INCIDENTS** - For incidents that do not fall into the previously identified categories the Incident Commander or on scene company officer in the absence of an incident commander shall determine the appropriate level of PPE to protect all personnel.

**HEARING PROTECTION**

Hearing protection shall be used in compliance with Agency policy.

**SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS**

Safety is the responsibility of all personnel (It's an Attitude). All officers shall insure that the intent of this policy is followed at all times. All personnel shall continually monitor themselves and each other for the proper use of PPE and monitor for signs of fatigue, dehydration, heat exhaustion, etc.

An extended operation may require the consideration of crew relief and rehab measures. This will assist in reducing accidents, fatigue, dehydration and heat related injuries.

PPE is an important safety requirement for the Incident Commander to consider. At major incidents a dedicated Safety Officer may be assigned by the IC to assist with the monitoring of PPE requirements and usage.

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