

Town of North Yarmouth Personal Protective Equipment Policy



FIRE RESCUE

PURPOSE:

To provide PPE guidelines to protect the safety and health of all members of the department. The Officer in Charge shall use discretion on incidents or tasks not specifically listed below or incorporated in the North Yarmouth Fire Rescue Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy. He/she shall have the authority to upgrade or downgrade the appropriate level of PPE after evaluating the scene for health and safety hazards.

Program Administrator

The program administrator is responsible for the hazard assessment required for the program, the employee training required by the program, the purchase of the PPE required as a result of the hazard assessment, the selection and fitting of PPE and maintenance of the PPE as required, the implementation and use of PPE and the annual review of the program.

Employees should refer their questions or comments about this program to the administrator.

The program administrator is: Fire Rescue Chief Gregory Payson

POLICY:

The department shall provide each member with the appropriate protective clothing and protective equipment to provide protection from the hazards of the work environment to which the member is or may be exposed. Such protective clothing and protective equipment shall be suitable for the tasks that the member is expected to perform in that environment.

Protective clothing and protective equipment shall be used whenever the member is exposed or potentially exposed to the hazards for which it is provided.

The IC may deviate from this guideline based on sound decisions and best practices if needed.

PROCEDURE:

Members shall have their portable radios charged and on their person during all incidents in which they respond to.

Members shall be fully trained in the care, use, inspection, maintenance, and limitations of the protective clothing and protective equipment assigned to them or available for their use.

Protective clothing and protective equipment shall be used and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' instructions. A maintenance and inspection program shall be established for protective clothing and protective equipment. Specific responsibilities shall be assigned for inspection and maintenance.

Protective Clothing, (Firefighters) Structural Response includes:

1. Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when there is potential of flying debris, splashes, dust, and other potentially injurious chemical or physical hazards. An SCBA face piece is appropriate protection for eyes when in use.
2. Nomex hood on the head covering the ears and neck. At no time shall any hair be visible when hood is properly donned.
3. Turnout coat with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place with collar up.
4. Turnout pants with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place.
5. Turnout boots
6. Gloves
7. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be donned completely and readily available. Refer to the Town of North Yarmouth's Respiratory Protection Plan for additional use criteria.

8. Department members will wear full protective clothing at all times when engaged in active firefighting, including the use of SCBA and as identified by the Officer in Charge. "Full Protective Clothing" is defined as that safety equipment issued by the Fire Department to fully encapsulate the Firefighter during such operations.

Protective Clothing (EMS) – Structure Fires

Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when there is potential of flying debris, splashes, dust, and other potentially injurious chemical or physical hazards. Protective clothing must be donned immediately after exiting the emergency vehicle.

- Ansi Class II vest shall be worn with helmet when working in any type of roadway or areas where there is vehicular traffic.
- Latex free gloves shall be worn when handling all patient's
- Boots shall be worn
- Long Sleeve Shirt and Pants shall be worn
- In the event of IDLH situation, EMS personnel will not handle patient care until the IDLH is stabilized or the patient is brought to them

Protective Clothing – Forestry, grass, leaves or woods fires

1. Structural helmet with eye shields or forestry helmet with eye protection.
2. Turnout coat with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place with collar up or Forestry coat appropriately fastened.
3. Turnout pants with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place.
4. Gloves
5. Turnout Boots

Protective Clothing – Chainsaw use other than for structural firefighting

1. Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when saw is in use.
2. Turnout coat with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place with collar up or Forestry coat appropriately fastened.
3. Chaps for leg protection shall be utilized. Turnout pants may be worn underneath the chaps for additional protection.
4. Gloves
5. Turnout boots or appropriate safety boots.
6. Ear protection for extended operations.

Protective Clothing – Traffic Safety

1. Protective clothing must be donned immediately after exiting the emergency vehicle.
 - Ansi Class II vest shall be worn with helmet when working in any type of roadway or areas where there is vehicular traffic.

Protective Clothing – Hydrant Shoveling

- Class II vest shall be worn while shoveling hydrants in or around traffic.

Protective Clothing – Vehicle Fires

1. Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when there is potential of flying debris, splashes, dust, and other potentially injurious chemical or physical hazards. An SCBA face piece is appropriate protection for eyes when in use.
2. Nomex hood on the head covering the ears and neck. At no time shall any hair be visible when hood is properly donned.
3. Turnout coat with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place with collar up.
4. Turnout pants with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place.
5. Turnout boots
6. Gloves
7. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be donned completely and readily available. Refer to the Town of North Yarmouth's Respiratory Protection Plan for additional use criteria.
8. Department members will wear full protective clothing at all times when engaged in active firefighting, including the use of SCBA and as identified by the Officer in Charge. "Full Protective Clothing" is defined as that safety equipment issued by the Fire Department to fully encapsulate the Firefighter during such operations.

Protective Clothing – Motor Vehicle Crashes (Firefighters)

1. Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when there is potential of flying debris, splashes, dust, and other potentially injurious chemical or physical hazards. An SCBA face piece is appropriate protection for eyes when in use.
2. Nomex hood on the head covering the ears and neck. At no time shall any hair be visible when hood is properly donned.
3. Turnout coat with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place with collar up.
4. Turnout pants with liner fully buttoned inside and out, all Velcro adhesions in place.
5. Turnout boots
6. Gloves
7. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be donned completely and readily available. Refer to the Town of North Yarmouth's Respiratory Protection Plan for additional use criteria.
8. Department members will wear full protective clothing at all times when engaged in active firefighting, including the use of SCBA and as identified by the Officer in Charge. "Full Protective Clothing" is defined as that safety equipment issued by the Fire Department to fully encapsulate the Firefighter during such operations.
9. ANSI Class II vest will be worn over turnout gear at all times when in the roadway or traffic pattern
10. If there is patient contact, the firefighter shall wear N-95 Mask, safety glasses, and nitrile gloves

Protective Clothing – Motor Vehicle Crashes (EMS Operations)

Helmet on and appropriately secured. Eye protection must be used when there is potential of flying debris, splashes, dust, and other potentially injurious chemical or physical hazards. Protective clothing must be donned immediately after exiting the emergency vehicle.

- Ansi Class II vest shall be worn with helmet when working in any type of roadway or areas where there is vehicular traffic.
- Latex free gloves, N-95 mask, and safety glasses shall be worn when handling all patient's
- Boots shall be worn on vehicle accident scenes
- Long Sleeve Shirt and Pants shall be worn
- In the event of IDLH situation, EMS personnel will not handle patient care until the IDLH is stabilized or the patient is brought to them

Protective Clothing – Hazardous Materials Response

Structural protective equipment during initial response. As the degree of Hazmat Material Responses are varied, the OIC shall assess the level of protection necessary to maintain the health and safety of all members. In the event of a true hazardous materials incident, The County Hazardous Material Team will need to be contacted. Level A, B and C suits are available on the HAZ-MAT truck, if the severity of the incident warrants the additional protection. Care shall be taken to avoid contamination of Structural PPE during these responses.

Protective Clothing – Confined Space Rescue

This varies greatly between entries but at a minimum includes proper eye protection, gloves, hardhat and safety footwear. It may also include rubber waders, chemical protective clothing, hearing protection, respirators, distress alarms, SCBA etc.

Protective Clothing – Medical Services

PPE available in general includes: latex free gloves, fluid resistant gowns, face shield, N-95 masks, protective eye wear, resuscitation bags or pocket masks. EMS Rescue Coats and Structural PPE offer a minimum level of protection.

Not all PPE is appropriate to all settings. The type and characteristics of specific protective clothing and equipment will be dependent upon the task being performed and the degree of exposure anticipated. The minimum use of PPE for all patient contacts will be latex free gloves, safety glasses, and N-95 masks. When a positive COVID-19 (P-U-21) is expected gowns shall also be donned. It is expected, however, that, with training, the employee will learn to recognize the potential for occupational exposure and wear appropriate PPE when indicated.

Protective Clothing – Water Emergencies

All members operating around or near bodies of water, including the boat, shall have a minimum of a life jacket on and have it appropriately secured.

Members shall don survival suits for ice or water rescues in rivers and open bodies of water such as the ocean. The member must have an attached safety line secured before entering the water.

Protective Clothing – UTV operations:

Any member operating the UTV shall wear a helmet (based on the function at hand), leather gloves, hard toed boots, long sleeve shirts, and long pants.

If being used for EMS operations, the member will follow medical emergency procedures

If being used for wildland fire operations, the member shall follow wildfire emergency procedures

Hearing Protection

Disposable ear plugs are provided to all personnel for use during unforeseen circumstances.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT & Janitorial Staff

Purpose

This program was created to provide procedures and policies to properly protect employees from workplace hazards that could cause injury to a person's body. Personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to protect employees from bodily injury in the workplace. The program will cause the entity to be in compliance with the requirements of CFR 29 1910.132 through 1910.139 regarding PPE.

Copies of this program will be available to all employees in the workplace. Employees will be trained to be in compliance with the program. The entity will furnish the necessary components for compliance after a hazard assessment of the workplace is completed.

Program Administrator

The program administrator is responsible for the hazard assessment required for the program, the employee training required by the program, the purchase of the PPE required as a result of the hazard assessment, the selection and fitting of PPE and maintenance of the PPE as required, the implementation and use of PPE and the annual review of the program.

Employees should refer their questions or comments about this program to the administrator.

The program administrator is: Public Works Director Clark Baston

Annual Review

The program shall be evaluated each December to determine the effectiveness of this program.

Employer/Employee Responsibilities

Employees shall be trained to know at least the following:

- When PPE is necessary
- What PPE is necessary for each situation encountered
- How to properly put on, take off, adjust and wear PPE
- The limitations of the specific PPE provided by the employer
- The proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of PPE

The employee shall demonstrate an understanding of the above before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE. If the employee does not understand the above, retraining by the program administrator or designated training person is required.

The employer must retrain if previous training becomes obsolete or if new PPE is introduced.

The employer shall verify that each affected employee has received and understood the required training through a written test or equivalent that includes the name of each employee trained and the date and subject of the training received.

The employee is responsible for maintenance, care and storage of PPE as required in the manufacturer, supplier or user instructions or as the training requires.

The selection of the proper PPE for use shall be made by the employer after the hazard assessment of the job is made. The choice of type of PPE will be made jointly by the employer and employee so long as the choice is adequate for the purpose.

Required Programs – Based on Employer Assessment of Workplace Hazards

Eye and face protection

Suitable eye protectors (safety glasses, goggles, face shields, wire mesh masks, etc.) must be provided where there is potential for injury to the eyes or face from flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, acids or caustic liquids, chemical gases or vapors, body fluids, potentially injurious light radiation or a combination of these.

Respiratory Protection

Devices such as dust masks, canister respirators, self-contained breathing apparatus or other such apparatus must be provided to employees that are exposed to harmful dust, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smoke, sprays, or vapors. Persons working in oxygen deficient or oxygen enhanced atmospheres must also be protected. Persons using the devices must be fit-tested to the device, tested to see if they are physically able to use the devices, and trained in the use and care of the devices.

Head Protection

Employees working in a location where there is danger of being struck in the head by falling objects or other dangers from above such as electrical hazards must wear head protection. The head protection must meet the requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z89.1-1986.

Foot Protection

Persons must have foot and leg protection if their feet are subject to crushing foot injury. The feet must also be protected from puncture by sharp objects, molten metal, hot surfaces, wet and slippery surfaces. This also requires leg protection for persons using chainsaws and other devices that could cause injury to legs.

Electrical Protective Equipment

Persons involved in power generating or power distribution construction and maintenance must be protected from shock, electrocution and burn hazards.

Hand Protection

Workers hands and arms must be protected from cuts, burns, chemicals, bodily fluids and other recognized hazards. Proper hand wear must be selected for the task. Material safety data sheets specify the type of hand wear needed for handling various chemicals.

1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure – Hearing Conservation

Hearing protection must be provided for persons exposed to noise levels exceeding limits set forth in 1910.95. The noise level of the workplace must be measured to determine if hearing protection is required. Employees must be tested for hearing capacity to establish a base line for use when succeeding tests are made. Employees' hearing must be tested annually and compared to the base line test to see if the hearing conservation program is effective. If the tests reveal further hearing loss, the employer must make every effort to further reduce the noise level exposure to the employee. The employer must furnish ear protection that will diminish the noise to acceptable levels. Foam earplugs, ear "muffs", or other suitable method may be used to reduce noise exposure when no other way to reduce the noise level is possible.

OTHER RELATED ISSUES

A U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or buoyant work vest is required when there is danger of falling into water at the work site. For emergency rescue operations, boats and ring buoys with at least 90 feet of line are required when working over or on water.

Day workers should use safety orange or safety green vests when working within the road right-of-way when exposed to traffic hazards.

Night workers (police officers, sheriff's department employees, firefighters, road or street department, water or sewer department employees, emergency medical workers or others) who work where there is danger of moving vehicle traffic must have safety vests or clothing with reflective material designed for high nighttime visibility.

Seat belt use is mandatory in the state of Maine when driving a motor vehicle. Employees must use seat belts when machines or equipment are factory equipped with the devices.

The employer must furnish all PPE except personal wear items. Steel toe shoes or boots are personal wear items. The employer and employee may share the cost for steel toe or fiberglass toe boots per labor contract. Specialized footwear such as hip boots or other footwear used infrequently should be furnished by the employer.

Safety glasses ground to prescription are also considered to be personal wear items. The employer and the employee may share the cost of prescription safety eyeglasses.

Replacement of personal wear items is usually on a time basis, e.g., yearly, every second year or whenever the item is damaged as a result of work activity. For example, an employee inspecting on an asphalt-paving project has steel toe shoes ruined by the tack oil and hot mix. This would be abnormal wear and the cost should be borne by the employer. These situations should be judged on a case by case basis with or without written policy.

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