



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

This policy is intended to assure that all personnel are prepared to undertake rescue operations and/or fire suppression immediately on arrival at an emergency scene while maintaining the highest degree of personal safety.

All personnel shall be familiar with, and follow this policy whenever present at the scene of any emergency incident and/or training exercise.

POLICY

Primary responsibility for adherence to this policy rests with each individual. It is the individual's responsibility to keep protective clothing and equipment clean and in a serviceable condition in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations or policy set forth by the Fire Chief.

All Command level personnel shall use protective equipment appropriate to their function at an emergency scene.

Company Officers shall be responsible for enforcement of this policy within their respective companies. Deviation from this policy shall be after consultation with the Safety Officer or Incident Commander.

Full protective equipment shall consist of a helmet with face shield or goggles, protective hood, turnout coat, turnout pants, boots, and gloves. SCBA, face piece, and PASS device shall be worn in hazardous atmospheres.

All equipment shall be properly fastened and closed with the protective hood on, coat collar turned up and helmet ear flaps turned down.

Full protective equipment shall be worn by all personnel according to the following criteria:

1. Under no circumstances shall any aspect of personal safety be sacrificed in order to increase the speed of emergency operations.
2. Personnel shall not enter the hazard zone of any incident unless wearing full protective equipment.
3. All personnel shall don full protective equipment during any type of incident indicative of fire, potential fire, explosion, potential explosion, or release of any type of hazardous material.
4. Company personnel shall don full protective clothing except for SCBA, mask, helmet and gloves prior to boarding the vehicle / apparatus to respond.
5. Full protective equipment is optional for Chief Officers and support staff during response. Drivers shall wear at a minimum, full structural turnouts for incidents toned as structure fires or possible structure fires. Helmet shall be donned when exiting the apparatus. All other incidents excluding medical responses, the driver shall wear a minimum of yellow brush jacket.

Approved

Fire Chief

1 of 2



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

6. Personnel arriving at an emergency scene while off-duty shall not enter the hazard area on the scene without donning full protective equipment. The Incident Commander may assign off-duty personnel without protective equipment to areas where no protective equipment is needed.
7. All personnel operating in an area, or around the area where power tools, hydraulic tools or forcible entry tools shall wear protective equipment.
8. Personnel operating at the scene of an EMS or rescue incident shall wear whatever protective equipment necessary to assure personal safety during the incident, i.e. gloves, goggles, gown or mask for protection from communicable disease.
9. Gloves shall be worn at all times when hand tools, power tools, hose, ladders or any other equipment is used that could cause injuries to the hands. This shall include all work details, maintenance operations and training exercises.
10. During Special Operation Incidents personnel shall wear the prescribed personal protective equipment as issued by the department for Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Swift-Water Rescue, or other specialized rescue operation.

Incident Commanders may use their discretion to determine the appropriate level of protective equipment required for personnel operating at incidents where no specific guidelines have been established. In all cases personnel shall be required to wear all protective equipment necessary to protect against all foreseeable hazards.

The Fire Chief or his designee shall issue all equipment.

Alterations to any equipment, such as the removal of coat or pants liners, are prohibited. If the need for some alteration is required due to unusual circumstances, the Health and Safety Officer or Fire Chief must make approval.

Damage to personal protective equipment shall be immediately reported to the Battalion Chief. The Battalion Chief shall inspect the damaged article and order it replaced or repaired by submitting it to the Fire Chief.

The Battalion Chief or designee shall personally inspect on a periodic basis all protective equipment for each person assigned to their shift. The Battalion Chief's findings shall be forwarded to the Division Chief of Professional Standards or Fire Chief for budgeting considerations.

Approved

Fire Chief

2 of 2