
Subject: Protective Particulate Hood Exchange Program

Date Issued: October 1, 2020

Reviewed: September 11, 2020

Deletes: February 25, 2019

Total Pages: 3

Approval: James D. Large, Fire Chief

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to develop and maintain procedures that address the cleaning and maintenance of structural firefighting hoods. St. Petersburg Fire Rescue will adopt and maintain a structural firefighting hood that addresses proper care, inspections, donning, doffing, and equipment exchange program. All members of St. Petersburg Fire Rescue will, in the performance of their duties, keep their protective hoods clean and properly maintained.

1. Structural Firefighting Hoods

- a. Personnel will be issued two (2) protective hoods. Personnel may only wear protective hoods that are issued to them individually by St. Petersburg Fire Rescue.
- b. Personnel are not permitted to mark or personalize the hood issued to them. Hoods will be tracked through PPE Software by serial numbers.
- c. Names will be marked on the manufacturers label when the hoods are issued by the Safety & Training Division.
- d. All firefighters issued personal protective equipment are responsible for inspecting the issued hood at the beginning of each shift and after each use.
- e. Members are not permitted to repair their hood for any reason. If the hood is in need of repair, they will contact the Safety & Training Division (through their company officer) for replacement.
- f. Anytime protective hoods are contaminated and/or exposed to IDLH conditions (by products of combustion, blood, etc.,) they will be sent to shop/supply for advanced cleaning.
- g. Protective hoods will be replaced by the Safety & Training Division when they are no longer compliant with the NFPA Standard.
- h. Members will store their protective hoods in a clean, dry area away from sunlight.

2. Hood Inspections

- a. **Before First Use Inspection** – Prior to using the hood for the first time, ensure that the hood does not have any construction flaws or has any damage after manufacturing.

- b. **Routine Inspection** – Upon inspection, if any of the below conditions exists, without delay, alert your officer for a replacement hood. Following every use, inspect your protective hood for:
 - i. Soiling and/or contamination.
 - ii. Physical damage such as, but not limited to, rips, holes, tears, frays, or cuts.
 - iii. Thermal damage such as, but not limited to, charring, burn holes, or melted stitching.
 - iv. Facepiece opening elasticity (assess whether the face opening is still elastic and has not become overextended). The face opening of your protective hood must fit securely around your SCBA facepiece each time you wear it.
 - v. Label legibility (labels should not be removed, and information/markings should be legible).
- c. **Advanced Inspections** – Advanced inspections will be conducted at least every 12 months, after every advanced cleaning, or whenever there is a concern about its condition for continued service. This inspection will be carried out by the Safety & Training Division or shop/supply personnel as per current policy.

3. **Wearing Instructions**

- a. **Interface Issues and Adjustments for Fit** – Your protective hood must fit properly and not interfere with other ensemble elements to ensure your proper protection. The hood should overlap all portions of your SCBA facepiece, but it should not obscure your vision through the SCBA facepiece visor. Your protective hood should not interfere with the SCBA facepiece to face seal. The bib portion of your protective hood must be tucked in underneath the collar and top of your protective garment so that the bib does not pull out during use.
- b. **Contaminated** – If your protective hood has become contaminated with blood, body fluids, toxins, chemicals, or other hazardous substances, use extreme caution in removing your hood. **DO NOT** contact the surface of your hood with your bare hands. Remove your hood by grasping the hood with both hands below your chin, lifting the hood up and over your head to the rear, avoiding bringing the contaminated hood in front of your face. You may seek assistance in removing your hood and other parts of your ensemble to minimize your exposure to any contaminants. Avoid spreading contaminants and follow the hood exchange program. Contaminated hoods will be bagged in a yellow bio-hazardous bag and taken to shop and supply for cleaning as per current policy.

4. **Hood Exchange Program**

- a. Lieutenant of Rescue vehicles will store approximately 25 clean hoods in a sealed bin or tote.

- b. On all incidents where toxic exposure has occurred, the incident commander will ensure that personnel exchange hoods as crews are released from the scene. This will be a **one-for-one exchange** to take place at a location designated by the Incident Commander. Crews that have been exposed to toxins or products of combustion will not receive their accountability passport until hood exchanges have taken place.
- c. The dirty hoods will be placed in a reusable dry-bag and taken to shop/supply for cleaning. The bag should be sealed to prevent toxic gases/fumes from escaping the bag. The bag of dirty hoods will be taken to the air bottle room at shop/supply for cleaning.
- d. The Rescue Lieutenant will have access to restock their hood cache while at shop/supply. Used bins will be left in the air bottle room of shop/supply for restocking.
- e. The hoods will return to assigned users after cleaning and inspection. The “spare” hoods will be returned to shop/supply for cleaning, regardless of use and restocked into the appropriate bin. At no point, should personnel be in possession of 3 hoods at the same time.