



## **SAFETY CLOTHING POLICY**

To ensure that all emergency response personnel are appropriately outfitted in protective clothing for specific types of emergency responses, the following procedures will apply. These procedures do not change but augment existing policies found in the Santa Cruz County Volunteer Handbook. The most current procedures regarding issuance and distribution of gear will be maintained by the County Fire Service Center and may change based on new mandates, updated specifications, or supply availability. The following Personal Protective Equipment and clothing will be worn for the specific emergency incidents listed:

### **STRUCTURE FIRES**

- Protective clothing consisting of turnout pants, coat, boots, structure helmet with shield or goggles, Nomex hood, and gloves will be worn for all structure fire response.
- Structure fire response includes any fire, fire menace stand-by, or smoke check within a structure.
- Use of self-contained breathing apparatus shall be required but not limited to the following situations:
  - 1) Entering an oxygen deficient atmosphere.
  - 2) Entering a burning building.
  - 3) Entering a confined space.
  - 4) Fighting a vehicle fire.
  - 5) Working in hazardous smoke other than a wildfire (e.g., disposal/refuse dump area fire).

### **VEHICLE ACCIDENTS**

- Due to the variety of conditions that might result from a vehicle accident, the appropriate protective clothing will be the same as listed under STRUCTURE FIRES (turnout pants, coat, boots, structure helmet with shield, or goggles, Nomex hood and gloves) with the addition of a reflective vest.
- The Incident Commander may reduce the level of protective clothing depending upon incident conditions. In no case will the level of protective clothing be less than wildland protective clothing minus the fire shelter.

### **VEHICLE FIRES**

- Due to the potential intensity of a vehicle fire, the protective clothing worn on this type of incident will be the same as that listed under STRUCTURE FIRES (turnout pants, coat, boots, helmet with shield or goggles, Nomex hood and gloves).
- Use of self-contained breathing apparatus will be mandatory.

### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE (EMS)**

- Personal Protective Equipment as described in the Infectious Disease Policy shall be worn on emergency medical incidents, such as residential medical aid calls, where other protective equipment is not necessary.
- In addition to the above, all personnel shall be dressed in such a manner to provide professional identification as a member of the County Fire Department.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL INCIDENTS**

- Any response to a hazardous material incident will require the wearing of full protective clothing as listed under STRUCTURE FIRES (turnout pants, coat, boots, structure helmet with shield or goggles, Nomex hood and gloves).
- Use of self-contained breathing apparatus will be mandatory while engaged in activities in the exclusion zone of the incident.
- Note: Many hazardous materials require the use of specialized protective clothing. Personnel should limit their exposure to unknown material to all but essential actions until technical specialists can determine the specific hazards.

## **WILDLAND FIRE**

- The following protective clothing shall be worn on wildland fires: gloves, helmet with shroud, goggles, wildland safety boots and a Nomex shirt/pant combination.
- Wildland safety boots are to be a heavy duty (at least eight inches in height) lace-toe work boot with deeply lugged soles and heels. The toe of the boot should be of hard material, such as hard leather, to reduce the potential of toe injuries. Steel toes are not required but do provide added protection.
- County Fire requires the use of a 100 percent cotton tee shirt to be worn as added insulation to prevent serious burns during critical fire exposure. Volunteer Firefighters have the option of wearing a long, sleeve crewneck tee shirt under their Nomex shirt. It is recommended that other undergarments also be made of cotton.
- When engaged in wildland fire suppression activities, all Volunteer Firefighters will be required to wear a fire shelter that is available for immediate use.
- Supervisors may authorize the removal of the fire shelter only when they are certain there is no risk of danger during mop-up or overhaul conditions.

## **RESCUE**

- Rescue calls such as "over-the-side", cliff rescues, carry-outs or where there is no threat of fire, will require the minimum protective clothing of Nomex shirt, helmet with goggles, gloves, and boots (eight inches or higher).

## **ALL OTHER EMERGENCY INCIDENTS NOT LISTED**

- Appropriate protective clothing and equipment shall be worn as deemed necessary to protect the Volunteer Firefighter.