

	UNION CENTER FIRE COMPANY INC. Best Operating Guidelines	
	Subject: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	BOG Series General
	Approved: Chief Mark Belensky	Initiated 01/01/04 Revised 05/07/22

All firefighters will be issued the following Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Bunker pants, bunker coat, boots, gloves, hood, helmet and personal light.

The Union Center Fire Company's helmets will be color-coded:

Black	Firefighter
Yellow	Lieutenants & Captains
Orange	Safety Officer
White	Chief/Assistant Chiefs

All firefighters will wear PPE on all calls unless the incident commander authorizes a lower level of protection.

All firefighters are expected to have their PPE available at all calls. The PPE will be donned before responding on any apparatus; the only exception is the apparatus driver. The driver should don their PPE as soon as possible after arriving on the scene.

All firefighters shall be trained in what equipment shall be used for each application and how to don, doff, adjust and wear personal protective equipment.

All firefighters will be responsible for keeping track of their equipment, complete monthly check on Public Safety Check, and periodic cleaning. Any member purchasing their own equipment must follow all the rules set forth by the Company for maintaining and cleaning. After any call in which PPE is heavily soiled it must be cleaned according to the manufactures specifications. This will be done in the stations by using the washing machines. The PPE will be washed in a mild detergent supplied by the Company. Any equipment that is torn, worn out should be brought to the attention of the Equipment Officer for replacement.

Any member wishing to utilize their own personal protective equipment must be granted permission from the Chief and Equipment Officer prior to utilizing such equipment.

The Equipment Officer will perform periodic checks all turnout equipment for defects. This will be done in accordance with manufacturers specifications. Members may be requested to furnish their PPE for inspection at anytime. At no time will any member alter any PPE that is issued to them unless granted permission by the Chief.

Only authorized members will be allowed to carry their PPE in their vehicle, i.e. Officers, Green Tags, and Drivers. Gear will be stored out of direct sun light and in an approved storage bag.

The Fire Company shall provide training to each firefighter who is required by OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 (f) (1) to know at least the following:

When PPE is necessary

What PPE is necessary

How to properly don, doff, adjust and wear PPE

The limitations of PPE and the proper care, maintenance, useful life and disposal of PPE.

Each affected firefighter shall demonstrate an understanding of the training specified in the above section and the ability to use PPE properly, before being allowed to perform work requiring the use of PPE.

For the health and safety of all members, this Fire Company follows NFPA 1851-2008, which requires that all structural and proximity garments be retired 10 years from the date of manufacture.

The Fire Company recommends that the structural garments worn by members that are qualified “interior” firefighters are replaced at seven (7-10) years from date of manufacturer. Due to increased wear and quicker break down of materials from structural firefighting.

Once PPE has been retired, it must be removed from the Fire Company property as soon as possible, and disposed of properly.

Any personal protective equipment that is directly involved with the serious injury or death of a firefighter shall be immediately taken out of service and treated as potential evidence. This evidence will be secured for the investigation and may not be accessible to any member of the fire department who is not directly involved with the investigation process.

While all of the above listed equipment is personally issued to each member, it shall remain the property of the fire department, and may be reallocated during an emergency if necessary. (I.e. someone’s P.P.E. being worn by another member)