

B-9 Cleaning Of Personal Protective Equipment

Non-Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

- **1.** Turnout gear used on a routine basis shall be cleaned:
 - 1. After every fire working fire, car fire or any fire where exposed to products of combustion
 - 2. When inspected in conjunction with the Fire Gear Inspection program (See Fire Gear Inspection B-23 for further information)
 - 3. As soon as practical after contamination or exposure to excessive products of combustion, bodily fluids, blood, chemicals, or any other contaminating hazardous materials.
 - 4. "Wash Your Hood Sunday"- every Sunday you work, wash your hood and replace it with a clean hood.
- **2.** Routine cleaning on a day-to-day basis shall consist of the following:
 - 1. Fire personnel shall brush off loose debris from their turnout gear
 - 2. Fire personnel shall rinse gear with clear water, scrub with a brush, and repeat the rinsing step.
 - 3. Fire personnel shall initiate cleaning after an incident at which they have become contaminated while on scene, if possible.
- **3.** Advanced cleaning can be accomplished through the use of an extractor or other approved front load laundry machine, following gear manufacturer instructions.
- 4. Specialized cleaning may be needed for hazardous material or biological contamination. If needed, the

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Ohio EPA or City of Toledo's Environmental Services Department may be referenced for guidelines and recommendations.

- **5.** Drying shall be accomplished by hanging the garment to passively dry or use dedicated gear drivers if available. Dry gear with air circulation only, **DO NOT USE HEAT**. Members shall not use the hose dryer, which can contaminate fire gear or an automatic tumble dryer as the drying motion will degrade the gear's vapor barrier.
- **6.** Members shall refer to gear manufacturer guidelines for complete cleaning and drying instructions.
- 7. Company Commanders shall ensure that members under their command clean their PPE regularly.

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