

Operating Guideline # 104

Wildland Firefighting Personal Protective Clothing

Created September 16, 2019

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PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to describe the personal protective clothing requirements for firefighters while performing their duties at wildland fires such as brush, grass, and forest fires.

ISSUE/RATIONALE:

Structural firefighting gear is not optimal protective clothing for extended duties in wildland fire situations due to the potential for metabolic heat build-up which can lead to heat related stress and injury.

GUIDELINE:

1. When attending any grass or brush fire or similar incident, all attending personnel should wear Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) as follows:

- a) Issued coveralls, hard hat/helmet, safety glasses/goggles, and wearing leather gloves and safety footwear, OR
- b) Structural firefighting ensemble including boots and bunker gear, helmet wearing safety glasses/goggles, and wearing leather gloves.

NOTE: When the structural firefighting ensemble is worn, the Incident Commander must give consideration to the issue of metabolic heat build-up and provide for frequent rehab breaks to all personnel involved in suppression operations. The bunker coat may only be removed during operations when the Incident Commander has deemed the risk of burns to be negligible.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all members to comply with the provisions of this OG and particularly that Company Officers (supervisors) and firefighters (workers) ensure that they adhere to their duties in accordance with the provisions of this document and the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

DEFINITIONS:

“Coveralls” means departmental issued coveralls specifically designed for use in wildfire applications.

REFERENCES:

- Occupational Health and Safety Act (RSO 1990, c. 0.1)
- Section 21 Committee Guidance Note GN-4-07 Wildland Fires
- MLFD OG 206, Dehydration
- MLFD OG 224, Warm Weather Hazards – Bugs, Snakes and Plants
- MLFD OG 702, Rehabilitation
- MLFD OG 811, Wildland Fires