

Operating Guideline # 516

Dressing on Apparatus

October 9, 2019



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to protect personnel responding in department apparatus.

GUIDELINE:

1. All fire department personnel are required to wear properly adjusted seatbelts while apparatus are in motion (SEE OG 201 – Seat Belts, and the Highway Traffic Act). Attempting to don turnout coats and pants or other equipment while riding on a moving vehicle may result in serious injuries or death should the vehicle make a sudden stop or be involved in a collision should personnel not be wearing their seatbelts, and therefore this practice is prohibited.

NOTE: Donning SCBA that is mounted in any seating position is NOT a substitution for wearing a properly adjusted vehicle seat belt. All seat mounted SCBA should remain restrained at all times in accordance with manufacturer's instructions when the vehicle is in motion. At no time should the cylinder restraint device be released until such time as the apparatus has come to a complete stop at its final destination.

2. All personnel should dress as completely as possible prior to entering the apparatus and before the apparatus moves, each occupant of the vehicle shall confirm that they are properly seated and "belted in". Where a firefighter is unable to completely dress before the apparatus is placed in motion, he or she shall wait until the arrival at the destination to complete the dressing sequence.

NOTE: Structural firefighting helmets are NOT to be worn while inside a moving vehicle.

3. Because loose turnout gear poses a threat to the safety of all firefighters should the apparatus be involved in a collision, where possible turnout gear that is not being worn shall be placed in a compartment(s) and not in the apparatus cab (unless it can be secured in a device specifically designed to restrain the equipment, i.e. – helmet holders).

4. It is not required that turnout gear/PPE be worn when returning from an emergency or other duties so if a call is received when the apparatus is returning from an emergency or other duties, the vehicle should be safely pulled over to the side of the road to allow firefighters to dress in their protective clothing and equipment before proceeding to the emergency.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

- S. 21 Committee Guidance Note GN-1-1, Fire Truck Occupant Safety
- S. 21 Committee Guidance Note GN-4-6, Fire Fighter Helmets
- MLFD OG 201 – Seat Belts