

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 407A
Occupational Health and safety
Brush Firefighting Gear
5/25/2001

Purpose: This policy shall serve as a guideline for the use of personal protective Brush Firefighting Gear

Scope: This policy shall apply to all members of Hiawatha Fire and Rescue.

Background: Regular structural fire gear can be dangerous to wear on many of the emergencies that Hiawatha Fire and Rescue is called to answer. Structural fire gear is heavy, hot, and dangerous to wear during long periods of exertion when proper rehabilitation is not provided. Hiawatha Fire and Rescue provides the members with brush firefighting gear to eliminate some of the danger that occurs when wearing structural turnouts to fight brush fires. It should be noted that brush gear is **NOT** to replace the use of structural bunker gear at structure and automobile fires. All members should be aware of the limitations of the brush gear as versus structural fire gear.

Use: Brush fire gear **will** be worn on the following types of emergencies:

1. Brush fires.
 - A. All crews responding to brush fires on 289, 280 and 286 will wear brush fire gear.
 1. Brush Gear refers to the lightweight jacket and pants, boots provided by Hiawatha Fire and Rescue or approved firefighting boots, structural firefighting gloves or approved firefighting gloves, and structural fire helmets or other approved helmets. (See a Chief Officer for approval of gear)
 2. All gear shall be properly donned prior to riding any Hiawatha Fire and Rescue apparatus.
 3. It is important to note that all apparatus assigned to a brush fire are committed to the resolution of that incident. Structure fire gear is taken as a back up to the brush gear.
 - B. Crews will also take with them their structural fire gear and stow it in various compartments on their respective apparatus. Care should be taken to assure that no gear will be lost or fall off of the apparatus. If possible all gear not worn shall be stowed within compartments and compartment doors shall be secured.
2. Special Operations- Incidents that may require the use of rescue harnesses or other special operation equipment.

Brush fire gear is **optional** on the following types of calls:

1. Auto accidents – Crews responding to automobile accidents in Rescue 281 shall have the option of responding wearing brush fire gear. Crews responding in Engine 284 are to wear their structural fire gear.
2. Medical Calls – All personnel have the option of responding to EMS calls in their brush fire gear.
3. Storm Watch – Members have the option of wearing brush fire gear while on storm watch