

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 503
Maintenance and Apparatus
Care of Personal Protective Equipment
5/25/2001

It shall be the responsibility of the individual member to care for the personal protective equipment that is issued to them. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is all bunker gear, gloves, boots, hoods, helmets, and SCBA masks issued by the department.

All PPE shall be inspected and cleaned after all contact with any contaminants (i.e. smoke, soot, body fluids, diesel fuel, or hazardous materials) or once each year.

The following shall be the process for cleaning PPE:

1. Flush with water as soon as possible after contamination.
2. Wash the helmet with a mild soap solution.
3. Separate the inner liner and outer liner of bunker pants and coat. Wash separately.
4. Pre treat heavily soiled spots with liquid spot remover. (Shout, Spray and Shout)
5. Wash outer shell with laundry detergent or soap designed for PPE. USE NO BLEACH. Only wash PPE in the station washing machine.
6. Wash the inner liner of the bunkers as you washed the outer liner.
7. Nomex hoods and helmet earflaps can be washed as the bunkers.
8. Pre treat gloves as mentioned above. Then hand wash gloves. Do not place gloves in a washing machine as the lining may separate.
9. Hang to dry. Do not use a clothes dryer or hang in direct sunlight.
10. Wash boots using mild soap solution.
11. Closely inspect all PPE for rips, holes, burns, abrasions, and discoloration. Also inspect all Velcro and zippers. Inspect helmets for small cracks, bubbling and shell abrasion.
12. If any damage is found immediately notify the PPE Officer or a Chief Officer.
13. Failure to follow departmental guidelines shall result in disciplinary action.