

**Purpose:** This policy establishes minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be utilized by CTFD personnel when operating at emergency incidents or during training and other activities.

**Administration:** The Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief of Operations will have joint responsibility for administration of this policy within the scope of their job descriptions.

**Definitions:**

**Structural Turnout Gear:** includes bunker pants, bunker coat, structural firefighting helmet, structural firefighting boots, flash hood, structural firefighting gloves, and eye protection. All Structural Turnout Gear shall be compliant with NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting.

**Wildland Turnout Gear:** includes fire resistive pants (Nomex or FR cotton), fire resistive long-sleeved shirt (Nomex or FR cotton), wildland firefighting helmet, wildland or dual-certified firefighting boots or logger boots, wildland firefighting gloves or leather work gloves, and eye protection. All Wildland Turnout Gear shall be compliant with NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting. Sturdy long cotton pants (e.g. jeans), long-sleeved cotton shirt and structural firefighting helmet may be substituted for corresponding Wildland Turnout Gear components, if necessary.

**Rescue Gear:** includes jumpsuit-style or coat/pants combinations, boots, gloves and eye protection compliant with NFPA 1977, Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting and NFPA 1951, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents.

**SCBA:** for the purpose of this policy, references to Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) indicate situations where SCBA Qualified personnel shall have donned SCBA for possible use as part of firefighting operations. Under NO circumstances are any provisions of this policy to be construed to mean any personnel who are not SCBA Qualified should don or use SCBA during an incident. Policy on active ("on air") use of SCBA is set forth in Policy 6.3 Respiratory Protection and, should any apparent conflict in policy exist, all provisions of Policy 6.3 supersede all provisions of this policy with respect to active use of SCBA.

**Hot Zone:** area in which primary hazards caused by the incident in progress exist, generally within a perimeter formed by the fire suppression, hazardous materials mitigation or rescue apparatus in service and working on the fire ground or incident scene. All IDLH atmospheres are contained in the Hot Zone.

**Warm Zone:** area adjacent to the Hot Zone in which secondary hazards caused by incident operations exist. Secondary hazards include, but are not limited to, those caused by charged hose lines, movement of vehicles and equipment, contamination of personnel and equipment in transit from the Hot Zone, and similar.

**Cold Zone:** all areas affected by the incident but in which no hazards associated with the incident exist. Examples include apparatus staging area, rehab area, and similar.

**General Policy**

- All CTFD personnel responding to calls for service or participating in training or other activities shall utilize PPE appropriate for the hazards likely to be encountered during these activities.
- During emergency response, personnel should don PPE prior to boarding the apparatus. Driver/operators are exempt from this requirement, but shall carry appropriate PPE on board the apparatus during response and don appropriate PPE upon arrival on scene (see below).
- Personnel operating within or in proximity to IDLH atmospheres are also subject to all provisions of Policy 6.3 Respiratory Protection.
- Officers serving in supervisory roles within the IMS for a given incident are authorized to upgrade or downgrade PPE usage for personnel under their supervision, taking into account potential or imminent type and degree of hazards and impact on personnel safety.
- When apparatus is in non-emergency mode and in-service, personnel riding or operating CTFD apparatus shall carry appropriate PPE on board.
- Personnel operating or riding apparatus that will be out of service during the entire trip to and from its assigned station are exempt from carrying PPE on the apparatus (e.g. apparatus being transported for repair).
- All personnel are responsible for cleaning and inspection of all PPE issued for their use by the CTFD or personally owned after each use.

**Minimum PPE Requirements by Incident Type**

INCIDENT TYPE	MINIMUM PPE REQUIREMENT
<p><b>Structure Fire/Automatic Fire Alarm</b> includes confirmed, reported or possible fire, smoke/odor investigation, and alarm activations within structures</p>	<p><b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear and SCBA  <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear; Driver/operators may utilize helmet, gloves and boots only  <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required</p>
<p><b>Vehicle Fire, Trash/Dumpster Fire, Other/Miscellaneous Fire</b></p>	<p><b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear and SCBA  <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear; Driver/operators may utilize helmet, gloves and boots only  <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required</p>
<p><b>Brush/Wildland Fire</b></p>	<p><b>Hot Zone:</b> Wildland Turnout Gear  <b>Warm Zone:</b> Wildland Turnout Gear; Driver/operators may utilize helmet, gloves and boots only  <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required</p>
<p><b>CO Investigation</b></p>	<p><b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear and SCBA  <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear; Driver/operators may utilize helmet, gloves and boots only  <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required                      If victims are involved, personnel working with victims should also employ Body Substance Isolation (BSI) procedures</p>
<p><b>Vehicle Accident/Extrication</b></p>	<p><b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear OR Rescue Gear  <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear OR Rescue Gear  <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required                      If fire is involved, Structural Turnout Gear is required                      If victims are involved, personnel working with victims should also employ Body Substance Isolation (BSI) procedures</p>

INCIDENT TYPE	MINIMUM PPE REQUIREMENT
<b>Technical Rescue</b>	Personnel involved in rescue operations should utilize specialized PPE and/or SCBA appropriate for the incident type. Support personnel should utilize structural turnout gear components suitable for the hazards present.
<b>Search Detail</b>	<b>Wildland Search/Rescue:</b> Wildland Turnout Gear <b>Other Search/Rescue:</b> PPE appropriate for the potential hazards present. If no hazards are anticipated, partial Structural Turnout Gear (e.g. coat and helmet) should be utilized as a form of identification.
<b>Medical Assist</b>	Personnel should employ Body Substance Isolation (BSI) procedures (gloves and eye protection, at minimum) and utilize available turnout gear to minimize skin exposure to blood or bodily fluids, as needed.
<b>Hazardous Materials</b>	<b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear; SCBA requirements determined by the officer in charge, as dictated by conditions <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required
<b>Wires/Trees Down</b>	<b>Hot/Warm Zone:</b> helmet, boots, gloves, eye protection <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required
<b>Bomb Threat</b>	<b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear and SCBA <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required
<b>Helicopter Standby</b>	<b>Hot Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear <b>Warm Zone:</b> Structural Turnout Gear <b>Cold Zone:</b> No PPE required

**Reference:**

- Policy 6.3 Respiratory Protection
- NFPA 1951 (2007)
- NFPA 1971 (2007)
- NFPA 1977 (2005)