

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.03.03
LAUNDERING AND CARE OF
PROTECTIVE TURNOUT
CLOTHING



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/01/18
Revised: 00/00/00

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Fisher', is written over a horizontal line.

Purpose: To outline the steps involved in laundering and care of firefighter protective turnout clothing.

References: WAC 296-305-02001, NFPA 1851

Procedure:

1. The firefighter shall be responsible for ensuring that the protective clothing issued is kept and maintained per this procedure.
2. District firefighter protective clothing should only be cleaned and maintained as outlined in this procedure.
3. Laundering of firefighter protective turnout clothing.
 - a) All personnel shall receive operating instructions on the District “Turnout” washer-extractor prior to use.
4. Steps to laundering protective turnout clothing.
 - a) Remove all items from the turnout pockets (i.e. hose straps, gloves, tools).
 - b) Remove suspenders from turnout pants.
 - c) Separate the liner from the shell.
 - d) The shell may need to be rinsed by using a garden hose prior to being loaded into the washer.
 - i. Heavy debris must be removed (i.e. cellulose insulation, mud).
 - e) Turn the liner and shell inside out and then fasten the closure device on the shell.
 - f) Place the turnout clothing inside the washer.
 - i. ONLY ONE SET PER LOAD.
 - ii. The liners shall be washed separately from the shells.
 - iii. Gloves, hose strap, Nomex hood, and helmet shroud may be included with the shells.
 - g) Close the door and press the start button to initiate the wash cycle.
 - i. Use “WARM WATER” cycle only.
 - h) Remove the turnouts and hang them in the designated area until completely dry.
 - i) Turn washer off after completion.
 - j) DO NOT USE THE STATION’S DOMESTIC DRYER.

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.03.03
LAUNDERING AND CARE OF
PROTECTIVE TURNOUT
CLOTHING



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/01/18
Revised: 00/00/00

Approved: _____

Tony Fisher

5. Helmets.

- a) Helmets should be properly cleaned and maintained to ensure their durability and maximum life expectancy.
- b) The following are guidelines for their proper care and maintenance.
 - i. Remove dirt from the shell. Dirt will absorb heat faster than the shell itself, thus exposing the wearer to more severe conditions.
 - ii. Remove chemicals, oils, and petroleum products from the shell as soon as possible. These agents may soften the shell material and reduce its impact and dielectric protection.
 - iii. Damaged helmets and/or helmets that do not fit properly need to be repaired or replaced. A poor fit will reduce the helmet's ability to resist the transmission of force.
 - iv. Check for adequate separation between the suspension web and the outer shell. The proper distance is at least 1-1/4" (32mm) between the firefighter's head and the crown of the shell.
 - v. Inspect suspension systems frequently to detect deterioration
 - vi. Polycarbonate helmets that come in contact with hydraulic oil from a rescue tool should be removed from service and checked. Some oils attack the polycarbonate material and will weaken the helmet.

6. Boots.

- a) Wash oil, grease, chemicals, and debris from boot because they deteriorate the rubber.
- b) Store rubber boots in a cool, dark place. Boots will lose their protective quality due to the deterioration of rubber by the ozone.
- c) Replace worn, cut, or punctured boots that cannot be repaired.