

**POLICY - 3.4.6 - PROTECTIVE CLOTHING & GEAR**  
**SCOPE - ALL PERSONNEL**

---

The District shall provide to all volunteers and employees, at no cost to the individual, all required protective clothing for the assigned duties. An individual may exercise an option to provide their own protective clothing, in part or total. If an individual elects this option, it is understood that the election is free of any influence by the District.

All protective clothing used by volunteers or employees of the District must meet the requirements established under OAR 437-02-182 (9) through (14). The requirements and care, or replacement of protective clothing as identified below is adopted as policy by this fire district.

**GENERALLY:**

1. The District is responsible to assure that protective clothing used by the individual is designed for the intended use, is appropriate for the known hazards, and is in acceptable, serviceable, condition.
2. All new purchases of protective clothing shall meet current applicable standards.
3. The District shall assure that appropriate protective clothing protects the head, body, and extremities and consists of at least the following components: foot and leg protection, hand protection, body protection, and eye, face and head protection.
4. There is a shared responsibility between the District and the individual to assure that the most appropriate protective clothing is being used at the time of the emergency, or other activity that may require the use of protective clothing.

**BODY PROTECTION:**

1. Body protection garments shall be coordinated with foot, leg and hand protection to ensure full body protection without gaps which would expose the skin to hazardous conditions.
2. Body protection garments for interior structural fire fighting are comprised of a coat and a pair of pants manufactured and tested in compliance with current applicable NFPA standards. The coat and pants consist of an outer protective shell and an inner moisture barrier. It is the responsibility of the

individual to ensure that the inner and outer components of this clothing are in place prior to use.

3. Body protection garments for activities other than interior structural fire fighting must reflect the hazards which are expected to be encountered by a firefighter during those operations.
4. It is the responsibility of the individual to report any rip, tear, or other breach in the fabric of the protective garment. Whenever a breach occurs, the garment shall be turned in to the District for repairs or replacement.
5. Body protection garments shall be turned in to the District for cleaning whenever they become soiled or contaminated during the course of use.

#### **HEAD PROTECTION:**

1. Head protection for interior structural fire fighting shall consist of a helmet with ear flaps, a face shield, and a chin strap which meets current NFPA standards for such a device, and an approved flame resistant hood.
2. Use, care, maintenance, and permitted alteration instructions, conforming with the manufacturer's standards, will be issued with each helmet.
3. During interior structural fire fighting operations, helmet and head protective devices shall be worn in manufacturer's recommended position. The individual shall take advantage of all components of the head protection system.
4. Head protection for activities other than interior structural fire fighting must reflect the hazards which are expected to be encountered by a firefighter during those operations.
5. It is the responsibility of the individual to turn in to the District any damaged or defective component of the head protection system for repair or replacement.

#### **HAND PROTECTION:**

1. Hand protection for fire fighting activities shall consist of protective gloves or glove system which will provide protection against cut, puncture, and heat penetration.
2. Hand protection for activities other than fire fighting must reflect the hazards which are expected to be encountered by a firefighter during those operations.
3. It is the responsibility of the individual to turn in to the District any

damaged glove or glove system component to be replaced by the District.

**FOOT & LEG PROTECTION:**

1. Foot and leg protection requirements may be achieved by a combination of the appropriate footwear and protective trousers configured in such a manner to not allow a gap exposing the skin.
2. Foot and leg protection for interior structural fire fighting shall consist of footwear that is water resistant for at least 5 inches above the heel, slip-resistant, and provides protection against penetration of the midsole by an 8D common nail when at least 300 pounds of static force is applied, and protective trousers meeting current NFPA standards for firefighter body protection clothing.
3. Foot and leg protection for activities other than interior structural fire fighting must reflect the hazards which are expected to be encountered by a firefighter during those operations.
4. It is the responsibility of the individual to turn in to the District for replacement, any foot and leg protection component that is damaged or worn to the point where slip-resistance is compromised.

**EYE & FACE PROTECTION:**

1. Eye and face protection shall be required during operations where there is a reasonable probability of injury that can be prevented by such protection.
2. Whenever the structural fire fighting helmet's integral face shield does not adequately protect the eyes from the introduction of foreign objects, additional eye protection shall be provided.
3. When self contained breathing apparatus equipment is being utilized by firefighters, additional face and eye protection will not be required.
4. Face and eye protection for activities other than interior structural fire fighting must reflect the hazards which are expected to be encountered by a firefighter during those operations.
5. The District shall make conveniently available a type of protection suitable for the work to be performed, and employees and volunteers shall use such protectors.
6. It is the responsibility of the individual to turn in to the District for

replacement, any face and eye protection component that is damaged. It is also the responsibility of the individual to keep the protective device(s) clean enough to be optically serviceable.