

Douro-Dummer Fire Service Policy

Policy: 1.01

Date: April 2026

Revised Date:

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Section: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Subject: Turnout Gear

Purpose: To establish a policy to protect personnel while performing their duties as firefighters.

Scope: This policy is to be followed by all firefighting personnel

Policy:

Turnout gear, by definition, shall consist of the following:

- Firefighting Boots
- Firefighting Gloves
- Firefighting Hoods
- Firefighting Helmets
- Firefighting Bunker coat with DRD
- Firefighting Pants

These items shall meet applicable NFPA standards on protective ensembles for structural firefighting and on selection, care, and maintenance of protective ensembles for structural firefighting.

Turnout gear will not be used for interior firefighting if they are over their 10 year end of service date.

Expired turnout gear will be retired from use and stored to be used as temporary secondary gear but can not be used for interior fire operations. Legacy firefighters may use gear that is beyond 10 years of age as they do not perform interior firefighting operations.

1. Firefighters will wear their department issued PPE when actively participating in an area that requires this type of protective clothing. This includes both response and training.
2. Firefighter turnout gear should remain at their respective stations, unless otherwise approved. No unclean gear shall be transported in a personal vehicle when there's a risk of interior cabin off gassing is present.

3. Turnout gear shall be worn in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and established training standards. It is the responsibility of supervisors, under section 27(b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, to ensure that protective clothing is worn. It is the responsibility of all workers, under section 28 (b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, to ensure that they wear the required protective clothing in the proper manner. Protective clothing shall not be altered.

4. All protective equipment shall be decontaminated and inspected and repaired as required after exposure to hazardous environments and/or blood and body fluids.

If any piece of PPE is found defective or damaged it should be reported to their Officer, and the Officer will take appropriate actions, including reporting it through the chain of command.

5. **Inspections**

- Firefighters shall conduct an annual inspection and cleaning of firefighter turnout gear approximately at the 6-month date since newly issued or since the 3rd party inspection, with a completed "Personal Protective Equipment Checklist" sent to the fire administrative assistant.
- Non-routine inspections and cleaning of firefighter turnout should be completed immediately after every exposure to hazardous environment or bloodborne/body fluids. Cleaning shall be completed as per the decontamination procedure.
- Advanced inspections, testing, and cleaning are completed annually by a 3rd party Vendor.

Reference Policies

Policy 1.04 Field Decontamination

Reference Best Practices

7.13 Decontamination