

**Standard Operating Guideline 16
Wildland Firefighting Gear**

August 2000

Scope

This standard operating guideline is to provide general guidelines for district personnel with using wildland firefighting gear.

Purpose

Wildland Firefighting gear is to be worn only at wildland fires, not at any other emergencies.

Issued Gear

Wildland Firefighting gear issued by the district shall consist of the following :

- Fire retardant Shirt
- Fire Retardant Pant
- Helmet with Shroud and Goggles

Gear to be supplied by Firefighters to complete the outfit

Firefighters to complete their set of wildland Firefighting gear will have to supply the following items :

- Leather work Boots
- Leather Gloves
- Any other equipment they wish to add to their gear

The above items must meet the guidelines that will be listed below.

Gear purchased personnel by Firefighters

Any gear that is personally purchased by firefighters must meet or exceed NFPA standard number 1977 – 1998 edition or OSHA standards for firefighting purposes.

Marking of the Gear

Shirts – the shirts will be marked on the label inside the shirt with an identification number only, no other marking or labels shall be placed or attached to the shirt. For example no patches may be sewed on the shirt, this is because by adding items that are not fire retardant will cause a the shirt to lose its fire ret ardency.

Pants – the pants will be marked on the label inside the pants with an identification number only, no other marking or labels shall be placed or attached to the pants.

Helmets – The helmets will be labeled as follows, on the both sides of the helmet 2” letters or numbers will be placed for identification. No other stickers or labels are to placed on the helmets. The reflective striping is to remain intact on the helmets, this is per NFPA 1977 requirements.

Gloves – should be marked with your Identification number so they can be identified if lost or misplaced.

Any other equipment should be marked with the firefighters name or number for identification purposes. Common sense should be used when marking these items.

Glove Requirements

Gloves shall be designed such that they closely conform to the wrist or are adjustable at the wrist and shall extend a minimum of 1" past the wrist crease. Gloves shall be made of natural leather material. Structural gloves may be worn in place of leather gloves.

Boot Requirements

Boots shall consist of a sole with heel, upper, insole, and shank. The upper section of the boot shall be designed to provide an adjustable, snug fit for support around the ankle and lower leg. Heels shall be not less than ½" height. Footwear height shall be a minimum of 8" in height. This shall be determined by measuring inside the boot from the center of the insole at the heel, up to a perpendicular reference line extending across the width of the boot at the lowest point of the top line. It is recommended that the boots not have steel toes. The soles of the boots are recommended to be off the vibram lug sole type. Structural firefighting boots may be substituted if leather boots are not available.

General Guidelines for Wearing Gear

Careful consideration should be given to the undergarments worn with the protective garments. Garments worn beneath protective clothing should have long sleeves and legs and be made of cotton, wool, or flame/heat resistant synthetic materials. Other synthetic fibers should not be worn because they may melt when exposed to heat. The amount of clothing worn beneath protective clothing must be adjusted to suit the environmental conditions (more layers of clothing when its cold, fewer when its hot). Its is recommended that the upper undergarment be of cotton material (example long sleeve t-shirt) because it can absorb large amounts of perspiration and wick it away from the body to liberate heat. Socks that are worn with the gear should also be cotton or wool material.

As with all protective gear, your gear should be cleaned after each use, the gear can be cleaned with water and soap and dried as regular bunker gear would be.

Same as when wearing structural gear, wildland gear is a complete set. So wear all your gear and wear it right all the time.