

## **Wearing of Protective Equipment**

**# A-001**

**Date: 10-1-1998**

All firefighters at the scene of a fire or incident, when in close proximity to the structure or vehicle, shall wear full fire fighting gear, including at minimum: turnout coat; hip boots or bunker boots and pants; helmet; and gloves. The intent of this is not to require that protective gear be worn at the scene of an incident where no immediate hazard exists.

All firefighters shall don respiratory protective equipment for all interior structural fires; fires in other confined spaces; areas where an oxygen deficient or toxic atmosphere may exist; and at other incidents that require respiratory protection. Masks may be removed after the fire has been knocked down and the building and/or area have been thoroughly ventilated, as directed by the incident commander.

Members raising ladders, operating lines outside a fire building, performing exterior ventilation (roofs, etc.) or other external activities are not mandated to use respiratory protective equipment. However, it is strongly suggested that SCBA be worn while performing these or similar operations, or as ordered by the incident commander.

When masks are removed, they shall not be dropped or left in a building or other area where they may be subject to damage.

To reduce the possibility of injury, members responding to alarms shall not don respiratory protective equipment while en route. With the exception of apparatus equipped with respiratory device mount seats and seat belts, seat belts are not to be removed while fitting respiratory protective equipment on moving apparatus.

### **NOTE: OSHA REQUIREMENTS**

**1910.156 (f) (1) (ii)** *“Approved self contained breathing apparatus with full face piece, or with approved helmet or hood configuration, shall be provided to and worn by fire brigade members while working inside buildings or confined spaces where toxic products of combustion or an oxygen deficiency may be present. Such apparatus shall also be worn during emergency situations involving toxic substances.”*