

## **Protective Clothing Inspection**

**# A-026**

**Date: 7-7-1998**

Protective Clothing Inspection will be conducted during each scheduled inspection. Protective equipment in need of replacement will be exchanged for compliant equipment at the earliest opportunity. All protective clothing shall be of a type and kind issued or approved by the Union Vale Fire Department. Non-approved items shall not be worn. Personnel will not be permitted to engage in operations in the absence of, or with seriously deficient, protective equipment.

### **HELMETS**

Helmets shall be maintained reasonably clean with proper letters and emblems in place. Face shield, or goggles, chin strap, and suspension shall be in good condition.

#### **Cleaning:**

1. Helmets should be cleaned with hot tap water and mild (household) detergent.
2. The following is a list of additional cleaning materials which can be used to remove stubborn dirt and smoke stains:
  - A. Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
  - B. Windex (regular, not ammoniated)
  - C. Dishwashing detergent
  - D. Dupont Wash-Wax
  - E. Jeweler's polish for face shield scratches
3. The use of other materials such as strong (industrial strength) detergents, solvents, petroleum products, etc., will damage the shell and face shield.

#### **Repair:**

1. Missing nuts on face shield adapters.
2. Face shield excessively scratched.
3. Chin strap and assembly broken or torn.
4. Helmet liner worn, shredded, split, or cracked.
5. Webbed suspensions broken.
6. Decals missing or wrong.

#### **Replace:**

1. Split facepiece.
2. Helmet with visible cracks.
3. Helmet that is warped from exposure to heat.
4. Helmet that has been exposed to mist or fumes which are known to weaken polycarbonates.  
(NOTE: All items constructed from thermoplastics are susceptible to ultraviolet and chemical degradation. When the helmet loses its surface gloss and the surface begins to flake away, this chemical degradation has occurred. During inspections, helmets will be checked for these conditions, and the shell will be replaced immediately if they are evident.)

### **NOMEX HOOD**

**Cleaning** - use warm water and any mild detergent.

#### **Replace:**

1. Holes in hood.

2. Hoods which are not Fire Department approved.
3. Hoods stretch out of shape.

### **GLOVES**

**Cleaning** - use warm water and mild detergent.

#### **Replace:**

1. Stitching worn or rotten.
2. Glove is worn through.
3. Leather split.
4. Holes in gloves.
5. Gloves that are not Fire Department approved.

### **TURNOUT COAT AND PANTS**

#### **Cleaning:**

1. Liners and shell can be washed separated (liner reversed) with mild detergent.
2. Heavily soiled spots can be removed with general spot cleaners.

#### **Repairs:**

1. All repairs requiring stitching must be made with Nomex thread.
2. Broken snaps.
3. Rivets pulled loose from fabric and from the objects, they secure.
4. Suspenders, snaps, and leather eyes that are broken or elongated.
5. Stitching missing.
6. Holes or rips in shell of garment.
7. Frayed or worn collars.
8. Ripped liners.
9. Reflective stripes that are cracked or torn.

#### **Replace:**

1. Coats and pants on which the stitching is damaged beyond repair.
2. Coats and pants on which the fabric is worn through.
3. Coats and pants soiled to the point that they cannot be cleaned, or saturated with oil, tar, etc.

### **BOOTS**

**Cleaning** - use warm water and any mild detergent.

#### **Repair:**

1. Felt lining which has come loose from the top of the boot.
2. Boot loops broken.

#### **Replace:**

1. Any boot with holes in sole or cuts in body of boot.