

PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT, INFORMATION

1721

(No. 11 Dec. 1997)

As an "employer," CDF is responsible for providing personal protective clothing and equipment to its employees (California Code of Regulations, Title 8).

Supervisors are responsible for enforcing clothing and equipment standards and informing employees concerning safety hazards. Supervisors are also responsible for seeing that their employees are properly trained in the purpose, use, and maintenance of protective clothing and equipment.

Each employee responding to or engaged in emergency services such as structural, vehicle, and related fire suppression activities will use the appropriate safety clothing and equipment. In the "Schedule A" program, the local jurisdiction or other party assuming the financial obligation for the structural fire service will bear the cost of such clothing and equipment. As the employer, however, the department is responsible for seeing that CAL/OSHA standards for safety clothing and equipment are provided and used for structural and wildland firefighting. The department is also responsible for providing wildland firefighting clothing for inmates and wards.

FIRE SUPPRESSION CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

1721.1

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The department requires 100 percent cotton tee shirts for all fire suppression personnel as added insulation to prevent serious burns during critical fire exposures. Employees have the option of wearing a long sleeve, crewneck tee shirt except under a short sleeve uniform shirt (work or dress) where the sleeves are visible. It is recommended that other undergarments also be made of cotton.

Structural fire suppression safety clothing and equipment includes the following items:

- Structural fire safety helmet
- Goggles or face shield
- Ear protection
- Insulated gloves
- Turnout coat and pants
- Turnout rubber boots with steel toes and puncture proof soles
- Pressure-demand, self-contained breathing apparatus
- Personal alarms

Wildland fire suppression safety clothing and equipment includes:

- Safety helmet or air supplied helmet, as required by the department
- Goggles
- Ear protection
- Nomex hood, double-layered shroud, or equivalent face and neck protection

- Nomex shirt, with sleeve liners, and pants
- Gloves
- Safety work boots, as required by the department
- Chain saw chaps
- Wildland fire shelter

(For air operations safety clothing and equipment, see Aviation Management Procedures Handbook, [Section 8335](#) Personnel Protective Equipment.)

INSPECTION OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

1721.2

(No. 38 September 2002)

Unit managers are responsible for requiring the development and use of a written inspection plan for protective clothing and equipment to ensure damaged or defective equipment is removed from service. Unit managers shall utilize the department's Injury and Illness Prevention Program's personal protective clothing and equipment (PPE) plan.

The plan should meet the requirements of CCR, Title 8, Section 3401-3410, and include the following:

- A statement about the purpose of the inspection plan. For example: "To ensure damaged or defective equipment is removed from service for replacement or repair."
- A statement regarding the frequency of inspections. Inspections will occur a minimum of once a year. More frequent inspections will occur depending on the type of equipment and clothing, frequency of use, hazards encountered, manufacturers recommendations, and applicable safety regulations such as CCR, Title 8.
- The assignment of responsibility for conducting inspections.
- A procedure for how and when inspections will be documented.
- A procedure regarding how protective clothing and equipment is to be removed from service for replacement or repair.

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