

**WESTHAMPTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

WEARING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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Approved: Fire Chief Christopher Norris
Revised

S.O.G.

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this guideline is to ensure all personnel maintain the highest level of protection possible to minimize the potential for any injuries or fatalities. Every member of the Westhampton Fire Department is issued a full set of NFPA compliant protective clothing consisting of helmet with eye protection, hood, turnout coat, turnout pants, boots, and gloves. It is the members responsibility to response to emergencies with this protective clothing and have it properly donned prior to beginning tactical operations.

SCOPE: All firefighters responding to any emergency incident shall wear full protective firefighting gear. This shall include wearing full NFPA compliant firefighting gear, including at minimum: turnout coat, boots, pants, helmet with eye protection, hood and gloves.

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 exit; 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 has been thoroughly ventilated.

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.

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 enroute.