



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Division of Law Enforcement

## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

GENERAL ORDER	EFFECTIVE DATE	RESCINDS/AMENDS	APPLICABILITY
51	July 21, 2008	December 20, 2004	All Sworn Members

29 CFR 1910.120 and 29 CFR 1910.134

### 1 POLICY

- A** It is the policy of the Division of Law Enforcement to provide a respiratory protection program for members whose assignments do not normally include contact with hazardous materials, response to the release of hazardous materials and for escaping from such an event. This general order sets the minimum standards to comply with 29 C.F.R. § 1910.120 (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response), as it pertains to the use of Level C Personal Protective Equipment which includes an Air Purifying Respirator (APR).
- B** The Division will provide training and Level C protection equipment to those members whose primary job duties are patrol and emergency response and thus may be required to respond to scenes where harmful chemical and biological environments may exist.
- (1) The PPE will, at a minimum, consist of an Air Purified Respirator (APR) with a Biological and Chemical filter, chemical protective suit, gloves, boots, and sealing tape.
  - (2) APRs do not supply oxygen and must not be used in oxygen deficient atmospheres or in environments where substances immediately dangerous to life and health may be encountered.
  - (3) The Division Director or designee will identify those non-sworn members to be issued Level C Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- C** All respiratory protective equipment utilized by the agency shall be approved by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for the environment in which it is going to be used.
- D EPA Levels of Protection for Chemical and Biological Agents:**
- (1) **LEVEL A** – Protection that should be worn when the highest level of respiratory, skin, eye and mucous membrane protection is needed: Positive pressure (pressure demand), self-contained breathing apparatus (NIOSH approved) or positive-pressure supplied air respirator with escape SCBA; fully encapsulating chemical protective suit; gloves - inner, chemical resistant; gloves - outer, chemical resistant; and boots - chemical resistant, steel toe and shank (depending on suit boot construction, worn over or under suit boot.)
  - (2) **LEVEL B** – Protection that should be selected when the highest level of respiratory protection is needed, but a lesser level of skin and eye protection. Level B protection is the minimum level recommended on initial site entries until the hazards have been further identified and defined by monitoring, sampling, and other reliable methods of analysis, and equipment corresponding

with those findings used.

- (3) **LEVEL C** – Protection that should be selected when the type of airborne substance is known, concentration measured, criteria for using air-purifying respirators met, and skin and eye exposure is unlikely. Periodic monitoring of the air should be performed.

## 2 RESPONSIBILITIES

### A Advanced Training Director

- (1) The Advanced Training Director shall oversee the personal protection program and evaluate the effectiveness of this program annually. The Advanced Training Director shall be knowledgeable about the requirements of 29 C.F.R. § 1910.120, elements of the personal protection policy and will be responsible for assuring implementation of this policy. The Advanced Training Director is responsible for ensuring that all members designated to use respirators are included and that the policy is implemented in a consistent manner throughout the Division.
- (2) The Advanced Training Director is responsible for providing training to all members provided with PPE on the proper use and limitations of the issued items. Documentation of all training must be maintained in the Training Section. No member should attempt to use any PPE equipment without having successfully completed training on the specific PPE equipment issued and the conditions for which it is designed.
- (3) The Advanced Training Director is responsible to maintain and update as needed all forms and questionnaires used by the Division of Law Enforcement to administer the PPE program. This includes, but may not be limited to:
  - (a) OSHA Respirator Medical Evaluation Questionnaire
  - (b) Fit Test Checklists
  - (c) Fit Test Records
  - (d) Level C Skills Checklist
  - (e) Respirator Fit Test Record

### B Regional Training Lieutenant (RTL)

- (1) Every member shall complete a medical questionnaire in accordance with 29 CFR § 1910.134 (e)(2) if they are to be issued a PPE suit. The RTL shall make provisions with a physician or other licensed health care provider (County Health Department) to review the questionnaire for pre-existing medical conditions that may warrant either additional medical testing or limitations to the member's use of PPE. Members being cleared at this stage may proceed with training and fit testing.
- (2) The RTL shall ensure that a follow-up medical examination is provided (at the agency's expense) for an employee whose initial examination demonstrates the need for a follow-up examination per 29 CFR § 1910.134 (e)(3)(i).
- (3) If a member not medically cleared to wear a PPE suit and be fit tested after the follow-up evaluation, and desires to be issued a suit for emergency purposes, the member must sign a liability waiver and attend the training.
  - (a) Those members not medically cleared and not signing the waiver shall attend the training, however they will not be fit tested and or issued a suit.
- (4) Members collecting any required medical information pursuant to this general order will take appropriate measures to ensure confidentiality of the medical records. Medical records may not be disclosed or reported without the member's express written consent, except as required by law. Medical records will be marked as "**Confidential PPE Medical Screening**" and will be stored in the member's personnel file in accordance with the current retention schedule and the Health Insurance and Portability Act (HIPAA) requirements.

### 3 PROCEDURES

- A All members issued Level C PPE will complete an FDLE-approved training curriculum that includes awareness instruction in Weapons of Mass Destruction, PPE basic competencies to include proper maintenance and storage of issued equipment and an initial fit test which requires approval for testing by a licensed health care provider.

**Level C PPE is NOT intended for entry into hazardous environments; it is intended to provide minimal protection for first responders assigned to the cold zone at the perimeter of a scene.**

- (1) The agency shall ensure that members using a tight-fitting face piece respirator pass an appropriate qualitative fit test prior to initial use of the respirator and whenever a different respirator face piece (size, style, model, or make) is used. The OSHA accepted qualitative fit test will be conducted per protocols and procedures contained in 29 C.F.R. § 1910.134, Appendix A.
- (2) Training and fit tests shall be provided at the time of initial assignment and at least every four years thereafter. Additional fit tests shall be provided whenever the member, health care professional, supervisor, or training representatives make visual observations of conditions which include, but are not limited to, facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, change in eye wear, or an obvious change in body weight. The exception to this policy will be; a qualitative fit test will be required annually for Special Operations Group (SOG) members or others assigned to respond directly to a hazardous materials incident for perimeter security. Results of all tests will be indicated in the member's training file.
- (3) If a member wears corrective lenses the employer shall ensure the wearing of the lens does not interfere with the seal of the face piece by providing mask inserts to accommodate a proper fit.
- (4) The fit test shall be administered by an instructor who has completed fit test training. All personnel qualified to conduct fit-testing must remain current on their training.
- (5) All PPE issued to members shall be stored inside the cab of the vehicle and immediately available for use. A PPE instructor must inspect the PPE for operational readiness annually. The inspecting instructor will document the expiration date of the APR canister and records will be maintained by the Division Training Section.
- (6) Members shall complete annual refresher training of sufficient content and duration to maintain their competencies. Records listing the course date and location, and an attendance roster listing proficiencies will be maintained for a minimum of 3 years by the Division Training Section.
- (7) In the event a member is on scene prior to an established Incident Command Team with an identified On-Scene Safety Officer, the member will notify the local supervisor who will respond to the scene and act as the On-Scene Safety Officer until relieved by an appropriate safety official (Hazmat/Fire Safety or Incident Commander Appointee).

**Anyone who responds to these incidents will come under the command of the Incident Command Team.**

- (8) In the event of an incident, the On-Scene Safety Officer appointed by the Incident Command Team will establish the position of the Perimeter Security Team to minimize accidental exposure.
- (9) Prior to a member entering a potentially hazardous environment, the member should make contact with the On-Scene Safety Officer for a briefing regarding the known conditions and potential hazards that may be present.
- (10) Officers responding to biological/chemical scenes requiring use of PPE will complete an Incident Summary Report Narrative (FWC/DLE-045A) and will report any biological/chemical related medical problems or PPE deficiencies. The Regional Commander will review all summary reports associated with PPE use to determine any possible follow-up requirements. Members that responded to the scene will properly dispose of equipment such as boots, suits and gloves

and will promptly request issuance of replacement equipment.

**B PPE Training and Equipment Review Board**

- (1) A review board consisting of the Division's Training Section Leader, the Advanced Training Director and at least 2 Training Lieutenants will convene annually to review training and equipment specifications relating to the use of PPE. The review board may make recommendations concerning policy, training and equipment changes to the Deputy Directors for Operations.

**4 FORMS**

FORM NUMBER	FORM TITLE
FWC/DLE-045A	Incident Summary Report Narrative
Other forms related to the PPE program are maintained by the Advanced Training Director and will be made available upon request.	

RESCINDED