

SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT

Operational Guide

SUBJECT: Wildland Personal Protective Equipment Standard	O.G. NUMBER:
PURPOSE: TO describe the districts issued Wildland Personal Protective Equipment	Original Date: 5/10/98
	Revision Date:

All issued wildland personal protective equipment shall be designed to meet or exceed NFPA 1972 Wildfire Standard for Personal Protective Equipment.

°Helmet - to meet ANSI Z89.1-1986 Class A & B and OSHA

°Goggles - to meet ANSI Z87-1

°Face Shield - (New issue to NFPA 1972) Specifically prohibited are Nomex hoods due to high heat retention. (CDF&F 1988 study)

°Breathing Protection- (No current standard) “WHIFFS” wildland filter mask are available for all personnel. Individually issued and carried on apparatus.

NOTE: Breathing protection for wildland fire control is currently under study and research by NIOSH, MSHA, and USFS as well as various states. While the hazards are better understood current technology has not produced a totally acceptable breathing system. All wildland agencies currently prohibit the use of SCBA type equipment due to weight, limited duration, and lack of flow to produce the required tidal volume.

°Hearing Protection - Current issue disposables.

°Outerwear - FR Cotton or Nomex III is the minimum requirement- Current issue is FR Cotton or Nomex Shirt and bunkerpants. 100% cotton pants, FR Cotton Pants or Nomex III pants are also acceptable providing proper footwear is also worn (these are not department issue). Specifically prohibited are nylon or synthetics, blends, structural turnout coats, or any non flame resistant material.
Suspenders may be used on wildland pants if needed.

NOTE: Structural type turn out coats are prohibited due to high heat retention and weight. One of the main injuries to wildland fire fighters is heat exhaustion. Bunker type gear has been proven to be a major contributor to heat build up in fire control personnel.

(If structural Fire Attack is a part of your action--Structural Turnouts are appropriate.)

°Gloves – Standard issue or leather unlined medium weight.

°Boots - 8 inch leather lace up. (Bunker boots are permitted however heat retention is a potential problem.

NOTE: The requirement of a 8 inch lace up type boot is required to prevent ankle injury from twists and turns. Many of the Fire Officers have changed to a 10 inch boot due to the additional ankle support. The moisture retained by the boot surrounding the foot can cause severe blistering and burning.

°Fire Shelter - USFS GS 07F36105

°Optional - Folding knife in sheath (straight blade prohibited), radio clip, personal first aid kit.

Acceptable exceptions to the above items : Options cotton long sleeve work shirt, cotton long cuffless pants, cotton jacket, Nomex brush coat, Structural fire helmet, structural fire glove.