



From the office of the Fire Chief.....

August 26, 2013

TO: All Officers

SUBJECT: MANAGED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) PLAN

Multiple research reports from NIOSH, University of Cincinnati, and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN) show that Firefighters are far more likely to develop multiple types of cancer compared to the general population. One of the reasons is the constant exposure and re-exposure to our own unclean turnout gear. In addition to this serious health risk, NFPA 1851 also states that soiled and/or contaminated ensembles can have reduced protective performance.

In an effort to increase the health and safety of our members, the Emergency Services Bureau (ESB) in cooperation with the Risk Management Section (RMS) and Supply and Maintenance Division (S&M) have collaborated under the direction of the Fire Chief on a "Managed PPE Plan" which aligns the Department with NFPA 1851 regarding the selection, use, and maintenance of PPEs.

The "Managed PPE" plan is an overall long-term plan that will revolve around the LAFD Risk Assessment. The Risk Assessment is a document that formulates specifications for all PPE based upon numerous factors such as, the City's climate, population, make up, and types of structures, combined with the Departments fire ground tactics, frequency of use, injury data, etc. The Risk Assessment is currently being developed by the Risk Management Section.

The Managed PPE Plan consists of several phases:

- PPE Restriction Policy for Fire Station Living Quarters - New approved policy with manual changes is forthcoming. By not allowing turnout gear in living quarters of Fire Stations, we will minimize our member's exposure and re-exposure to contaminated gear and limit the cross contamination of station living areas.
- Re-establishment of the Department Safety Committee which is designed to assist in implementing safety practices and equipment trials and testing.
- PPE Tracking – Beginning in September 2013, the Department will begin bar coding and tracking all PPE which will assist in equipment replacement, budget forecasting, repair, cleaning, and inspection documentation.

- Personal Sizing – All turnout coats and pants will be personally sized for each member. Turnout gear performance is significantly enhanced when it is individually sized to the member.
- Individual Distribution (Turnouts) – The Department is pursuing the distribution of two sets of turnouts for each field member to facilitate cleanings, inspections, and increased safety.
- Name Panel – As the Department purchases new personalized turnouts, the coats will come with individual member's name included.
- PPE Cleaning – The Department is evaluating contract services that will provide two mandatory cleanings annually for all turnout coats and pants.
- PPE Extractors – The Department is currently evaluating the addition of more washer/extractors for members to clean their PPE when needed between their scheduled cleanings by the ISP.
- PPE Inspections – All PPE will be inspected by the Independent Service Provider (ISP) after each cleaning. An inspection checklist will be provided to all work locations for use by members, Company Commanders, and Battalion Chiefs at Inspections. The checklist will also be used at other times when a PPE inspection is needed.

The tracking and personal sizing portions of this plan, is set to begin on Monday, September 9, 2013. Representatives from Honeywell and Municipal Emergency Services (MES) will work with the Department to size each member, bar code turnouts, and enter information into the data base. It is imperative that members bring **all** of their current turnout gear with them.

Logistically, the tracking and sizing program will work similar to the vaccination program and will be organized through Division offices. Risk Management will handle the scheduling of special duty and Fire Prevention personnel.

Questions regarding the Managed PPE plan should be directed to the Risk Management Section at (213) 978-3860.



BRIAN L. CUMMINGS
Fire Chief



UNITED FIREFIGHTERS OF LOS ANGELES CITY

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 112

September 6, 2013
Bul 53 - 13

Brothers and Sisters,

Your Union constantly is looking out for your health, safety, and welfare. Months ago the Department and UFLAC joined together in a Union driven Letter of Agreement regarding a 'Overhaul reduction' trial program, and a 'Limited use of turnouts in living quarters' program. UFLAC attends the finest Health and Safety training in the nation. Just last month your UFLAC leadership attended an IAFF Health and Safety Symposium in Denver, Colorado, with the LAFD Safety Officer. We attended classes together regarding new turnouts, proper turnout gear care, and correct tracking of personal protective equipment (PPE).

The department is moving forward with the "Managed PPE Plan" which will now begin to align the department with NFPA 1851 regarding the selection, use, and maintenance of PPE's. Your Union and the department are moving forward together to minimize your exposure to contaminated gear, and create a safer environment for our members. Remember, Firefighters have a much higher rate of cancer than the normal population. That is why UFLAC has been involved, and continues to be involved in pushing legislation like Cancer presumptive. Many states in the union do not have that legislation, and you can thank your Union, not the City for the cancer presumptive legislation we currently have.

The tracking and personal sizing portions of this PPE plan, are set to begin on Monday, September 9, 2013. The first portion of the program endeavors to size each member, bar code turnouts, and enter information into the data base.

As this project moves forward UFLAC will continue to monitor and support the department, as long as they stay in alignment with providing you the best equipment possible.

This program will certainly have a lot of questions generated. However, this is a vital program pushed by the Union, and recently supported by the department. It seeks to ensure the safety of our members, limit the serious health risks of contaminated gear, improve the selection, use and maintenance of your PPE's.

Thank you for your all of your hard work out there on the line. Continue to stay safe even though 20% of our department was permanently cut, and Truck companies continue to be run below the minimum staffing levels.

UFLAC Executive Board

Powered by
UnionCentrics

In solidarity,

Frank Líma

President

IAFF Local 112

United Firefighters of Los Angeles City

flima@uflac.org

James A. Perry Labor Center

1571 Beverly Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA. 90026

Fax: 213-250-5678

