



James City County Fire Department  
**TRAINING BULLETIN**



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## PPE Cleaning Procedure

**New Item or Procedure:** Personal Protective Equipment Cleaning

**Purpose:**

- To provide direction in performing cleaning of Personal Protective Equipment in accordance to NFPA 1851, Standard on *Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2008 ed.

**Procedure:**

- Cleaning is defined in Chapter 7 of NFPA 1851, Standard on *Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* as “routine cleaning” and “advanced cleaning”.

### Routine Cleaning

Routine cleaning shall be performed after an exposure to a hazardous/toxic environment. This shall be performed by rinsing the PPE with water not exceeding 40 degrees Celsius/ 105 degrees Fahrenheit. Where necessary, a soft bristle brush can be used to gently scrub the PPE. A mild detergent with a pH range not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH can also be used. Garment element layers should be isolated to avoid cross contamination.

### Advanced Cleaning

**PPE shall only be cleaned in department provided gear extractors utilizing approved manufacturer’s methods and detergents. These procedures meet both Honeywell and Globe recommendations.**

#### Coat and Trouser garment

- Where the shells and liners of protective garments are separable, those items shall be washed only with like items. Separate the shells and liners.
- Separable liners shall be washed inside out so the moisture barrier is on the inside. The liner shall also be dried this way.
- Rinse all debris from the outer shell
- All closures, including pocket closures, hooks and loops, snaps, zippers, and hooks and clasps shall be fastened
- Water temperature shall not exceed 40 degrees Celsius/105 degrees Fahrenheit

- Detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH shall be used. Globe recommends liquid Tide or Cheer.
- If the coat has a drag rescue device (DRD) and the DRD is removable, the DRD shall be removed prior to the coat being washed. If the DRD also needs to be washed, place the DRD in a mesh bag.

### **Hood**

- Hoods shall be washed with garment liners
- Water temperature shall not exceed 40 degrees Celsius/105 degrees Fahrenheit
- Detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH shall be used. Globe recommends liquid Tide or Cheer.

### **Helmet**

- Helmet detachable items shall be removed from the helmet and shall be washed and dried separately

### **Gloves**

- Rinse all debris from the gloves
- Water temperature shall not exceed 40 degrees Celsius/105 degrees Fahrenheit
- Detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH shall be used. Globe recommends liquid Tide or Cheer.

### **Footwear**

- Shall be washed with water, detergent, and a soft bristle brush
- Water temperature shall not exceed 40 degrees Celsius/105 degrees Fahrenheit
- Detergents with a pH range of not less than 6.0 pH and not greater than 10.5 pH shall be used.

### **Drying**

All PPE shall be dried on Department provided warm air gear dryers. Gear shall not be dried in a tumble machine or in direct sunlight.