

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines
Fireground Operations

Fireground Operations, SOG 3.04

FULL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

1. Full protective clothing shall include helmet, protective eye protection, hood, coat, pants, boots and gloves. All which must meet NFPA Guidelines. Full protective clothing shall be worn any time a firefighter might enter or come into contact with any hazard, or hazardous environment, or environment that has a potential to become hazardous requiring respiratory protection. This should include below ground as well as above ground environment.
2. The basic decision to use an SCBA should be based on three (3) absolute rules:
 - a. Nobody is ever allowed to breath smoke or toxic fumes. Please keep in mind that there are higher toxin levels in residual or cooler smoke than in fully combusted smoke.
 - b. Use SCBA until atmosphere is confirmed to be safe (below 35 PPM) as by NIOSH and OSHA Standards. However, even after the atmosphere has been confirmed safe you should continually monitored while working in the area (i.e. during overhaul).
 - c. When in doubt, use SCBA.
3. Eye protection should at all time be maximized (must meet NFPA guidelines). The use of a helmet shield may not be appropriate in all cases. Safety goggles or glasses should be worn in addition to a helmet shield when operating the Rescue tool, cutting, or equipment that may spray hydraulic fluid or other toxic substance.
4. When wearing Fire Protective Clothing for firefighting all snaps, buckles, and Velcro closures should be used. Hoods should be completely tucked inside the coat collar and the collar should be turned up with the collar flap used. Not every incident or situation will require the full use of Fire Protective Clothing. The member must wear Fire Protective Clothing that will provide safety to the individual in that given incident or situation.
5. When entering environmentally toxic atmospheres, appropriate clothing, respiratory, and exposure protection will be worn. Refer to *Hazardous Materials Emergencies, Section VI, Levels of Protection*. When in doubt...DO NOT ENTER AREA.
6. A multi-gas detector should be used whenever possible to determine the relative safety of any potentially hazardous environment prior to entry.
7. Again, safety is a shared responsibility by everyone on the fire ground and should not be dismissed for any reason.