

	Hampton-Valley Forge Vol. Fire Dept. Standard Operating Guidelines	
	Subject: Washing of Protective Clothing	SOG # 1-07
		Initiated 01/01/2019
Approved: Fire Chief Chris Isaacs	Revised 01/01/2019	

THE WASHING OF PROTECTIVE CLOTHING WILL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NFPA 1581, FIRE DEPARTMENT INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM & NFPA 1500, FIRE DEPARTMENT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM.

1. Cleaning or disinfecting of contaminated protective clothing, station/work uniforms or other clothing shall take place in the wash area where the turnout gear washer is located. To avoid the possibility of spreading infectious diseases by cross-contamination, contaminated protective clothing, station/work uniforms or other clothing shall not be taken home. The protective coats, trousers, boots, hoods, and firefighting gloves shall be cleaned and dried according to the manufacturers instructions. This will be done at least once every six (6) months whether it needs it or not. It will be done after every working fire. Chlorine bleach or cleaning agents containing chlorine bleach will not be used.

2. Protective clothing contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious body fluids will be decontaminated immediately. Contaminated clothing will be handled as little as possible with minimum agitation. The member must remove all personal protective clothing prior to leaving an injury scene or work area. Protective clothing heavily contaminated with blood and/or body fluids will be placed in leak proof bags, sealed and then cleaned following the proper guidelines whether it be in house or done professionally. The member or members (those who will be cleaning the turnout gear) coming in contact with the contaminated clothing are required to wear protective disposable gloves and any other personal protective equipment as the situation warrants.

