

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Policy #:	5.227	Effective Date:	5/15/2012
Title:	Annual Gear Inspection and Cleaning	# of pages:	3
Category:	Personnel	Classification:	Yellow

1. **PURPOSE:** Annually all gear issued and worn by members of the South Portland Fire Department shall be tested in accordance with NFPA 1851 2008. This SOG explains the method that those tests will be conducted.
2. **PROCEDURES:**

Turnout Coat/Pants

There are 3 components of the inspection and test; visual, light and wet

Visual

1. Conduct a visual inspection looking for any damage, rips, tares, or unstitched material on the garment
2. All snaps, buckles, and zippers need to function the way they were intended
3. Reflective material not faded or ripped
4. The Drag Rescue Device (DRD) in working order
5. The garment is not dirty or soiled
6. Manufacture date (report if more than 10 years old)

If the garment passes the visual inspection the light test will be conducted to inspect the vapor barrier.

Light

1. Separate the liner from the outer shell
2. Using the led light provided position the light on the outside of the barrier so the light shines through the moisture barrier first then through the thermal barrier
3. Look for even distribution of the insulation
4. The insulation should not be shifting or migrating resulting in thin or bare spots
5. Focus on high abrasion areas like; shoulders, underarms, waist, knees, crotch, and seat

If the vapor barrier passes the light test move on to the wet test (if gear is less than 3 years old test is complete)

Wet (Only Required of more than 3 years old)

1. Using the Gore Low-Pressure Hydrostatic Tester (LPHT) conduct 6 wet tests on each garment. 2 wet tests need to be done at a seam or stitched area in the vapor barrier. The wet tests should be at abrasion points. The moisture applied under pressure should not leak through the barrier.

- a. The LPHT tank needs to be filled up to ½” from the top with a solution of 1 part rubbing alcohol 6 part water. The tank is able to operate in a fill range of one half full to the maximum capacity of ½” from the top
- b. Plug in the LPHT
- c. Place the test sample over the test head (under the test clamp ring)
- d. Pull down on the red handle to secure the garment.
- e. Turn on the pump with foot switch
- f. Run the pump for 15 seconds at 1 psi
- g. Inspect the sample for leaks. If a leak is detected at any of the sample tests the garment fails
- h. Turn off the pump with the foot switch
- i. Repeat for the other 5 inspections. Remember that 2 tests need to be at a seam
- j. Backup (B) gear or equipment also needs to be inspected and tested

Helmets

1. Inspect outer shell/reflective stickers
2. Inspect eye protection
3. Inspect inner liner/shell/ear flaps
4. Clean
5. Manufacture date (report if more than 10 years old)

Hoods

1. No rips or tares
2. Clean

Gloves

1. No rips or tears
2. Clean

Harnesses

1. No rips or tears in harness
2. All hardware functional
3. NFPA compliant
4. Manufacture date (report if more than 10 years old)

Boots

1. No rips or tears
2. Good tread left
3. Manufacture date (report if more than 10 years old)

Complete department gear inspection report for each firefighter and return to Deputy Chief.

Gear Washing

During the annual gear inspection make sure that the protective clothing (PPE) is clean (including gloves and hoods). The gear has to be kept cleaned and records of that on file.

Additionally, PPE is required to be cleaned after any exposure to materials like smoke, petroleum products, antifreeze, corrosives etc. This means gear has to also be cleaned after exposure to any fire incident big or small.

The department has approved gear washers at both Cash Corner and Western Avenue stations. Once the gear is cleaned a **Turnout Gear Cleaning Report** needs to be filled out and forwarded to the Deputy Chief.

Even if gear has not been exposed to any of the above listed contaminants it still needs to be washed at least once a year and records provided to document meeting this requirement. Reminder that this also pertains to all backup gear in that is in storage.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief