



ACT Rural Fire Service
Standard Operating Procedure 1.7
Personal Protective Equipment

1.7
Administrative
Management

Purpose

This SOP has been issued to ensure that firefighters within the ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) are provided with appropriate levels of protective clothing and accessories. It must be emphasised that protective clothing and accessories should always be utilised in conjunction with safe working practices.

Operating Procedure.

In all circumstances, the appropriate protective clothing must be worn when attending an incident. All Personal protective Clothing must meet the Australian Standard 4824 for protective clothing.

Two Piece Jacket, Trousers and Proban work shirts:

- The two-piece jacket and trousers will be supplied to all ACT RFS firefighters. It provides the maximum operational and dressing flexibility to handle the various tasks that are required by the Service.
- The two-piece also assists in “down” dressing to an appropriate undershirt or other shirt when firefighters are away from the “Active” fire ground.
- Long sleeve Proban treated work wear style shirts can be worn under the overalls and down dressed to and worn while undertaking mopping up operations. These must be worn with sleeves rolled down and fully buttoned up.

Firefighting Accessories:

For all activities undertaken by firefighters, the following accessories are to be issued to all ACT RFS Firefighters:

- Bush Fire fighting Helmet x 1
- Bush Fire fighting Gloves x 1
- Bush Fire fighting Goggles x 1
- Disposable Smoke Mask x 1

Bush Fire fighting Boots

- Bush fire fighting boots should be obtained from the ESA Stores.
- Boots may be sourced outside of the catalogue providing that they meet AS/NZS: 4821 (Int) 2001. This would be at the member’s own expense.
- Safety footwear meeting the standard established is compulsory on the fire ground.



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Cold Climate Jacket (blue jacket)

- A Cold Climate Jacket is available as a general issue jacket for all ACT RFS Firefighters. It provides the appropriate levels of thermal protection when working in alpine areas or at night.
- Cold Climate Jackets generally must not be worn during Grass/Bush firefighting due to the extreme development of heat stress.

Defensive Firefighting

- Standard issue bush firefighting clothing and accessories may be used for defensive firefighting provided that crews work within an appropriate safety zone.

Bush Firefighting Emergency Entrapment Hood

- This item is to be carried (in the pocket of their PPE) by operational firefighters on the fire ground. It MUST NOT be donned (or worn around the neck) unless it is required to improve thermal protection to the face as a result of a grass/bush fire entrapment of a firefighter.
- It MUST NOT be worn (or worn around the neck) during “normal” firefighting operations due to the effects of extreme heat stress which may develop.

Note: *This item will only provide protection to the face for limited fire overrun situations. Under no circumstances should it be construed that the availability and use of these hoods will increase the chance of surviving a serious fire entrapment. Their availability must not encourage firefighters to deliberately place themselves or others into a situation where it might reasonably be predicted that they could be over-run by a fire. Normally accepted appreciation and size up of every fire situation must continue in a bid to ensure that fire overrun situations are avoided.*

Alteration to PPE

- Only approved badges such as name and brigade name may be fixed to PPE and this is to be in the approved format using Velcro badges available from the resource center. Proban treated epaulettes will be supplied and are to be affixed using slide on epaulettes available from the resource center.
- No other alterations are to be made, without approval from the Service.

Care and Maintenance

- All members should ensure maintenance of PPE is kept to a high standard at all times. This will vary from brigade to brigade, however stowing PPE in a dry and suitable environment whilst not being used is paramount.



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Replacement of Faulty PPE

- All faulty garments and equipment should be reported to the Brigade Equipment Officer so a replacement can be sourced. Members should check validity of bushfire helmets regularly to ensure they are still in date.

Return of PPE on completion of Service

- A member of the Service who resigns, or whose membership/employment is otherwise terminated must, within seven days of the termination of their membership/employment return all items of PPE, equipment and identity or authority cards that have been issued or assigned to them by the Service. Clothing and PPE must be properly cleaned and laundered before being returned. A receipt must be issued acknowledging the return of any equipment or other items that are returned.

Equipment and other items are to be returned to

- The member's immediate supervisor (in the case of a staff member); or
- Their brigade captain (in the case of a volunteer member).

Equipment officers may then retain brigade ownership of this PPE for issuing at the discretion of officers of that brigade. The RFS must be made aware of the equipment being kept by the brigade.

Maintained By: Manager, Operations

Approved By: Andrew Stark

Position: Chief Officer RFS

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andrew Stark', written over a light green rectangular background.

Date: 15/02/2011

Cross Reference SOP/s: SOP 1.4 PPE and equipment use
SOP 1.5 Proper use of RFS property and resources

Amendments: