

Health Safety & Welfare Committee – Joint Statement



The intention of this Joint Statement is to bring to the attention of all Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service staff, the MFRS Health, Safety & Welfare Committee’s unanimous commitment to Safer, Stronger Communities, Safe Effective Firefighters

This Joint Statement is aimed at all Authority employees who as part of their employment are required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2002).


The Health, Safety & Welfare Committee is currently undertaking an investigation into contamination arising from used PPE and the potential for long term risks to health. Immediate guidance for MFRS staff is published in the Appendix A.

The Committee agrees that it is vitally important that all employees fully understand the duty placed upon them by the following Service Instructions:

- SI 0026 Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 1992 (as amended 2002)
- SI 0162 Firefighting Clothing – Correct Care Use PPE
- SI 0684 Firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Pooled System
- SI 0027 PPE Non-Uniformed Personnel
- SI 0828 PPE Log Books
- SI 0148 Annual Inspection of PPE
- SI 0128 Laundering Operational Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other items
- SI 0735 Logistics Courier Service PPE and Equipment Movements

Particular attention is drawn to the need for all employees to comply with the requirement to ensure all soiled PPE is either cleaned as per instructions or removed from use and sent to specialist cleaners as appropriate.

Attention is also drawn to the requirement for operational personnel to ensure all appliances and equipment are thoroughly cleaned following attendance at incidents where soiling has potentially occurred and that appliances and equipment maintenance including cleaning is to take place during the Response block of the work routine.



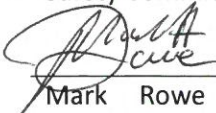
Cllr Ray Halpin (MFRA)

5/2/2016
Date




Dave Mottram (Chair, Health & Safety Committee)

5.2.2016.
Date



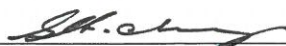
Mark Rowe (Fire Brigades Union)

5/2/16
Date




Mark Thomas (Fire Officers Association)

5/2/16.
Date



Steve Hickey (Unison)

5/2/16.
Date



Darren McCann (Unite)

5/2/16
Date

Appendix A: This Statement sets out some basic principles to be followed immediately by operational staff following firefighting operations.

The following principles should be applied when managing the risks associated with Firefighting activities.

1. Consider the use of Breathing Apparatus, where the possibility of airborne products of combustion may be present.
2. Personal issue respirators may be used during damping down operations and whenever considered appropriate following Dynamic / Analytical Risk Assessment.
3. Following operations and whilst still at an incident staff should brush / wipe off PPE to remove as many products of combustion as possible, (this reduces as far as is practicable the transfer of these products into crew cabs).
4. Use wet- wipes as issued to remove products of combustion from the head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately and while still at an incident.
5. Replace dirty FireTunic, Overtrousers and Balaclava immediately on return from an incident, where considered necessary.
6. Clean, gloves, boots and helmet immediately after a fire.
7. Do not take dirty PPE home or store it in your vehicle.
8. Thoroughly clean the fire appliance interior, equipment and lockers after a fire.
9. Keep Fire Kit out of living and sleeping areas.
10. If you are particularly dirty after removal of PPE, consider the need to shower on return to station and change your clothes.

In addition you should fully comply and cooperate with agreed occupational health monitoring activities