



## Rogers Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Chemical Protective Clothing		
<b>Policy Number:</b>	608	<b>Volume:</b>	Special Operations
<b>Approved By:</b>	Tom Jenkins	<b>Last Updated:</b>	January 2014
<b>CFAI Reference:</b>	5F.2, 5F.4, 6F.4	<b>CAAS Reference:</b>	N/A
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### PURPOSE

An important part of the specialized equipment carried by the Rogers Fire Department Special Operations Team (SOT) is the Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) that SOT Members will utilize during these responses. This CPC Program will establish the guidelines for the safe handling, storage, maintenance, and selection of CPC.

The Rogers Fire Department Special Operations Team (SOT) will be responsible for hazardous materials response inside the city of Rogers, and outside if necessary, where specialized equipment, actions, and procedures are to be utilized.

### POLICY

#### Cleaning

Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) that has been used, and is to be saved, will be decontaminated using the properly researched solutions and techniques. No CPC will be stored for re-use until a thorough cleaning, and subsequent inspection, has been performed

#### Storage

All CPC will be stored in their original container, or appropriate replacement, in an appropriately climate controlled environment. CPC that will be used in hazardous materials entry operations will be kept on Rescue 5 (R5). All additional CPC will be stored at Central Fire Station in the SOT storage room.

#### Inspection

Chemical Protective Clothing shall be fully inspected at the following benchmarks:

- Upon receipt from the manufacturer or distributor.
- Before and after each use, or annually during the first weekly check in the month of January, whichever comes first.

Level “A” protective clothing shall be pressure tested:

- After each use or annually during the first weekly check in the month of January, whichever comes first.
- At any time a level “A” suit is utilized where the product contaminating the suit material is unknown, or the suit cannot be properly decontaminated.

The manufacturer’s maintenance and testing recommendations should be consulted for maintenance procedures.

### **Inventory and Logging Use**

Documentation of all appropriate records, for all chemical protective clothing shall be completed by SOT personnel and forwarded to their Rescue Captain then to the Training Captain – SOT. This documentation will be filed and maintained by the Training Captain – SOT.. The documentation shall note the following:

- Each time the clothing is worn
- Dates the CPC is inspected
- Maintenance data
- Unusual conditions or observations
- Decontamination solutions and procedures
- Dates with appropriate signatures.

The documentation forms shall be kept in a binder on Rescue 5 for immediate use by responding personnel.

### **Selection**

When evaluating protective clothing for use at a hazardous materials incident, primary concern should focus upon chemical resistance, the integrity of the entire protective clothing ensemble (including the garment, visor, zippers, gloves, boots, etc.), and the tasks to be performed. When evaluating chemical compatibility recommendations, at least three sources should be considered, which may include the following:

1. The primary reference source for chemical compatibility recommendations should be the Chemical Protective Clothing (CPC) manufacturer’s technical documentation.
2. Other credible sources may include CPC reference manuals and computer databases.
3. *Guidelines for the Selection of Chemical Protective Clothing*, American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists, Inc.
4. *Quick Selection Guide to Chemical Protective Clothing*, Krister Forsberg, S.Z. Mansdorf.

There may be a conflict in compatibility recommendations between sources. Responders should initially rely upon the protective clothing manufacturer's chemical resistance recommendation and always select the most conservative data. When evaluating or selecting chemical vapor protective suits for use, personnel should acquire a complete inventory of all suit components and their construction materials.

#### Ensemble Selection Consideration

- The ensemble selection shall depend on the nature and severity of the hazard, the type and duration of the tasks to be performed, and the performance features and limitations of the available clothing and cost.

#### Respiratory Protection

- Only positive pressure devices which maintain positive pressure in the face piece during both inhalation and exhalation should be used during hazardous materials response operations. Decontamination, clean-up, and remedial operations are other examples for such use.