

MAHANAY CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guidelines
#4804 – Equipment / Personnel Readiness

Effective: 1/01/06
Revised: 11/01/07

1. Equipment & Personnel Readiness

1.1 All Department apparatus should be kept ready to respond as soon as possible after an incident and in accordance with each Company's SOG's.

1.2 Bunker Gear.

1.2.1 A set of Bunker Gear is defined as Bunker Pants, Bunker Coat, Firefighting Helmet, Firefighter Boots, Firefighter Gloves, and Nomex/Protective Hood. The Bunker Gear should be in good working order, free from rips, tears, holes and other problems that may interfere with the protective qualities the gear is designed for. A full set of Bunker Gear shall be worn at all times by all personnel working on-scene and all fasteners and zippers shall be closed. No modifications shall be done to bunker gear.

1.2.2 Personnel not dressed in full TOG, shall remain outside of the fire ground operations area. The OIC will define what is considered the operations area at a scene.

1.2.3 A Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) shall be worn by all personnel working in or on structures at fire scenes, at all vehicle fires and at all emergency responses unless otherwise instructed by a higher ranking Officer.

1.2.4 All personnel shall not have any facial hair when using any S.C.B.A. For general purposes, any growth of facial hair of more than one (1) day's growth or that which may interfere with a complete seal of the face piece shall be considered unacceptable for use with an S.C.B.A. Personnel wishing to have facial hair of more than one (1) day's growth shall not don an S.C.B.A. and shall not be involved in any operations noted above (1.2.3) and/or other operations that require the use of an S.C.B.A. Those individuals shall be limited to support operations only.

1.2.5 All companies and personnel shall be responsible for keeping their turn-out gear clean to manufacturer's specifications.
See SOG #4804.1 - PPE Cleaning/Decontamination.

1.3 Knowledge of Equipment

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1.3.1 All personnel are urged to make themselves as knowledgeable as possible as to the use and care for the turn-out gear and equipment and Procedures and Guidelines of both the Department and their Company.

1.4 Fitness for Duty

1.4.1 All personnel should be aware of their physical limitations and perform duties only within their training limits and to their physical limitations.

1.4.2 Firefighting personnel cannot afford to have their physical or mental capabilities impaired by alcohol or drugs. Drugs may impair motor skills or judgment and cause drowsiness or dizziness. Alcohol is a depressant that affects motor skills and judgment. All firefighters must be cognizant of the extreme danger to themselves and to others if emergency operations are conducted under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The use of illegal drugs by any firefighter shall not be allowed at any time.

1.4.3 Any firefighter taking prescribed medication that may affect his/her ability to respond safely should refrain from emergency operations. The firefighter shall not drive or operate any emergency vehicle or any auxiliary equipment or be a member of fire attack or rescue teams while taking this medication. While under the influence of prescription drugs or over-the-counter medication, it is the duty of the fire fighter to insure the precautions and warnings related to the drug are followed or until fit for duty.

1.4.4 Apparatus shall not be operated by anyone after consuming any amount of alcohol. (ZERO tolerance). Firefighters shall not respond to incidents, participate in training sessions, or interact with the public as representatives of the Fire Department while under the influence of alcohol and shall remain off-duty until, at least, eight (8) hours after the termination of consumption.

1.4.5 Any firefighter displaying signs of alcohol or drug use will be immediately ordered off the emergency scene or training grounds.

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- 1.4.6 If a fire company or fire department is hosting or participating in a social function at which alcoholic beverages will be consumed, the Fire Chief or ranking officer will appoint a duty crew to remain alcohol-free and available to responds to alarms. In the event that an entire Fire Company or Fire Department is placed out-of-service for a social function, a replacement or cover company of similar capabilities should be put in place to remain alcohol-free and available to respond to alarms.

- 1.5 Limited Duty Status
 - 1.5.1 Individuals receiving Worker's Compensation and/or Disability benefits shall not participate in Department activities while receiving such benefits unless a Physician's note is submitted to the Fire Chief, Relief Association and/or Borough of Mahanoy City detailing such permitted activities.

 - 1.5.2 Individuals will be required to submit a note from their Physician detailing the individual's capabilities as it relates to emergency responses and their return to duty status.

- 1.6 Occupational Safety and Health Program.
 - 1.6.1 See SOG #4817 Infection Control Plan.

- 1.7 It shall be the responsibility of the Assistant Fire Chief to insure that all members are trained to this SOG.

- 1.8 Any firefighter not adhering to this SOG shall be subject to Borough and Department disciplinary action.

Fire Chief

Author

MCFD Safety Officer