

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOREST SERVICE

Operation Order 2008-210

Effective: November 25, 2008

Personal Protective Equipment

General

This order supersedes 2000-210 Guidelines for Personal Protective Gear General and all previous operation orders and policies pertaining to personal protective equipment.

Objective

This operation order establishes personal protective equipment standards for Maryland Forest Service employees and volunteers. This policy can also act as guidance for other DNR Units involved in similar activities.

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment Standards

1. *Wildland Fire Operations (Wildfires & Prescribed Fire)*

Maryland Forest Service (agency) employees and volunteers shall meet the minimum training requirements set forth in the current Wildland Fire Training Operation Order.

All agency employees and volunteers will utilize the personal protective clothing and equipment for wildland fire operations as outlined below:

- **Hard Hats** – Agency issued with headlamp clips and chin strap meeting NFPA 1977 requirements.
- **Boots** – Leather, lace type with non-slip and melt resistant soles and heels. Minimum 8” height.
- **Pants** – Agency issued US Forest Service approved flame resistant materials. Undergarments should be non-synthetic type materials.
- **Shirts** – Agency issued long sleeve US Forest Service approved flame resistant materials. Undergarments should be non-synthetic type materials.
- **Coveralls** – Agency issued Nomex IIIA material. Undergarments should be non-synthetic type materials. May be worn in place of or over the above flame resistant pants and shirt.

- **Jackets** – Agency issued Nomex Fleece or flame resistant brush coat.
- **Gloves** – All leather work gloves meeting NFPA 1977 requirements.
- **Eye Protection** – Goggles or safety glasses will be worn when necessary to prevent eye injuries meeting ANSI Z87.1 requirements.
- **Ear Protection** – Ear plugs or muffs when necessary to prevent ear damage during equipment operation such as pumps, saws, heavy equipment, etc.
- **Fire Shelter** –M-2002 New-generation Fire Shelter will be made available to all agency employees and volunteers. These fire shelters are required to be carried on all agency dozers, tractor plows, and engines.

Cleaning of items should be in accordance with the manufactures label instructions and is essential for maintaining the fire retardant properties and maximum visibility of the clothing and equipment.

2. Chain Saw Operation

An agency employee or volunteer will demonstrate the safe and proper use of a chain saw to the satisfaction of the Regional Fire Manager or designee prior to being assigned any activities or projects that involve the use of a chainsaw.

All chainsaw operators shall wear:

- Hard Hat
- Hearing Protection
- Eye Protection
- Leather Gloves
- Chainsaw Chaps or Pants
- Leather Boots with skid resistant soles and minimum 8” height

3. Heavy Equipment Operations

All heavy equipment operators shall wear:

- Hard Hat
- Hearing Protection
- Leather Gloves
- Leather Boots with skid resistant soles and minimum 8” height

4. Brush Cutting with Hand Tools

All employees shall wear:

- Hard Hat
- Eye Protection
- Leather Gloves
- Leather Boots with skid resistant soles and minimum 8” height

5. *ATV (4 Wheeler) Operations*

All employees shall wear:

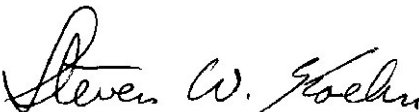
- DOT approved helmet or NFPA 1977 approved hard hat with chin strap may be substituted during wildland fire operations
- Eye Protection
- Leather Gloves
- Leather Boots with skid resistant soles and minimum 8” height

6. *Activities within the Right-of-Way of Public Highways*

All employees are required to wear an ANSI/ISEA 107-2004 compliant high visibility safety vest when conducting any activity on foot within the right-of-way of any public highway. Employees are exempt from wearing the high visibility vests while they are actively engaged in fire suppression that is in close proximity to flames or high heat.

It is the responsibility of the employee to inspect and maintain their personal protective equipment in a safe and usable condition. Items needing replacement should be requested through the employees’ supervisor.

This operation order is effective immediately.


Steven W. Koehn
Director / State Forester