



Maryland Forest Service Safety Gram September 2010

Topic: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Are you aware of the PPE that you should be wearing while performing your job duties?

The purpose of the first monthly Safety Gram is to ensure that Forest Service Personnel are aware of which types of safety garments and equipment are required for daily operations including wildfire and prescribed fire operations to protect employees from injuries. Each employee should refer to: MFS Operation Order 2008-210 Personal Protective Equipment for a complete listing of required PPE for work in the field.



Personal Protective
Equipment 2008-210.

Daily Operations – It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that each employee is issued all required PPE and that it is used in accordance with the PPE operation order.

Wildfire and Prescribed Fire Operations – It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that each employee is issued the required PPE, and it is the responsibility of the MFS Incident Commander or Burn Boss to ensure that PPE is worn on all wildfires and prescribed burns.

Wildland PPE can be heavier than your normal clothes and may be uncomfortable to wear on hot days. This does not excuse any personnel from abandoning their PPE on any wildfire or prescribed burn during any stage of the fire, from initial attack through mop-up and investigation.

The goal is injury prevention - MFS Employees have been injured by failing to utilize the proper PPE.

Common Denominators of Near Miss and Tragedy Fires

- Most occur on small fires or isolated portions of large fires.
- Flare Ups can occur in deceptively light fuels.
- Most fires appear innocent until unexpected shifts in wind direction and or speed.
- In some cases tragedies occur in the mop-up stage.
- Fires can spread rapidly on steep slopes.



Quote of the Month

“You can issue all the memos and give all the motivational speeches you want, but if the rest of the people in your organization don’t see you putting forth your best effort every single day, they won’t either.”
Colin Powell

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