

# Personal Protective Equipment

## 705.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy identifies the different types of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the Sahuarita Police Department (SPD) as well the requirements and guidelines for the use of PPE.

This policy does not address ballistic vests or protection from communicable disease, as those issues are addressed in separate policies.

## 705.2 POLICY

The SPD endeavors to protect members by supplying certain PPE as outlined in this policy.

## 705.3 DEFINITIONS

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)** - Equipment that protects a member from different types of workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact or exposure to certain types of workplace hazards.

**Respiratory PPE** - Any device that is worn by the user to protect from exposure to atmospheres that may be hazardous to respiratory health. For purposes of this policy, respiratory protection equipment does not include particulate-filtering masks such as N95 or N100 masks.

## 705.4 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Members are required to use PPE in accordance with SPD policy, the Town's Health and Safety Program manual, and any associated SPD and/or Town training.
- B. Members are responsible for proper maintenance and storage of issued PPE. PPE should be stored in an appropriate location (i.e., Temporary detention facility (TDF), storage room, member's vehicle) so that it is available when needed.
- C. Any member who identifies hazards in the workplace shall report them to a supervisor and/or utilize the procedures in the Illness and Injury Prevention Policy to report such hazards and/or recommend ideas to correct such hazards.

## 705.5 PPE BUCKETS

- A. Members of the SPD who may be exposed to hazardous materials, communicable diseases or requires a need for PPE will be provided with a personal PPE (HazMat) bucket.
- B. PPE buckets shall also be located in common use areas around the SPD where members have a higher risk of being exposed to hazardous materials or communicable diseases such as:
  1. Sally port/Temporary Detention Facility (TDF)
  2. Evidence processing area

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3. Property and Evidence (P&E) Warehouse
- C. Members are responsible for maintaining the supplies in their personal PPE bucket; however, the Training Sergeant is responsible for maintaining the contents of the PPE buckets in common use areas.
- D. PPE Buckets shall contain, at the minimum:
  1. Tyvek suit (or similar)
  2. Booties
  3. Gloves
  4. N95 mask(s)
  5. Surgical mask(s)
  6. Portable eye wash solution
  7. Goggles or glasses which provide side, top and under eye protection
  8. Red HazMat bag

#### **705.6 HEARING PROTECTION**

- A. Approved hearing protection shall be used by members during firearms training and at any other training or event when directed to do so by an instructor, the Chief of Police or an authorized designee.
- B. If members do not have their own hearing protection, hearing protection shall be provided by the SPD for use while at firearms or other similar SPD-sponsored training.
- C. Hearing protection shall meet or exceed the requirements provided in AAC R20-5-602 and 29 CFR 1910.95.

#### **705.7 EYE PROTECTION**

- A. Approved eye protection, including side protection, shall be used by members during firearms training. Eye protection for members who wear prescription lenses shall incorporate/encompass the prescription (e.g., eye protection that can be worn over prescription lenses). Members shall ensure their eye protection does not interfere with the fit of their hearing protection.
- B. Firearm Instructors shall ensure eye protection meets or exceeds the requirements provided in AAC R20-5-602 and 29 CFR 1910.133.
- C. Members are encouraged to have eye protection with them at all times, as it can be beneficial for the safety of the member in dynamic situations.

#### **705.8 HEAD AND BODY PROTECTION**

- A. Members of the SPD who participate in incidents involving crowd control and/or civil disturbances shall be provided with head protection and an attachable face shield.

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Such head protection may be a ballistic helmet that allows for an attachable face shield.

- B. Members are also provided with leg and arm protection. This gear is typically referred to as riot gear and may be stored in the member's patrol vehicle or at a designated location within the SPD.

#### **705.9 RESPIRATORY PROTECTION**

##### A. RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PLAN

1. The Special Services Division (SSD) Commander is responsible for ensuring a respiratory protection plan is developed and maintained by a trained and qualified member. The plan shall include procedures for (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602):
  - (a) Selecting appropriate respiratory PPE based on hazards and risks associated with functions or positions.
  - (b) Fit testing, including identification of members or contractors qualified to conduct fit testing.
  - (c) Medical evaluations.
  - (d) PPE inventory control.
  - (e) PPE issuance and replacement.
  - (f) Cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding and otherwise maintaining respiratory PPE, including schedules for these activities.
  - (g) Regularly reviewing the PPE plan.
  - (h) Remaining current with applicable National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) and state PPE standards and guidelines.

##### B. RESPIRATORY PROTECTION USE

1. Designated members may be issued respiratory PPE based on the member's assignment (e.g., a narcotics and/or arson investigator who is involved in clandestine lab investigations or arson scene investigations).
2. Respiratory PPE may be worn when authorized by an incident commander who will determine the type and level of protection appropriate at a scene based upon an evaluation of the hazards present.
3. Incident commanders are responsible for monitoring members using respiratory PPE and their degree of exposure or stress. When there is a change in work area conditions or when a member's degree of exposure or stress may affect respirator effectiveness, the incident commander shall reevaluate the continued effectiveness of the respirator and direct the member to leave the

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respirator use area when the incident commander reasonably believes (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602):

- (a) It is necessary for the member to wash his/her face and the respirator face piece to prevent eye or skin irritation associated with respirator use.
- (b) The member detects vapor or gas breakthrough, or there is a change in breathing resistance or leakage of the face piece.
- (c) The member needs to replace the respirator, filter, cartridge or canister.

#### C. MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION

1. Members shall not use self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), full-face respirators or cartridge respirators unless they have completed training requirements for the equipment.
2. Members exposed to environments that are reasonably known to be harmful due to gases, smoke or vapors shall use respiratory PPE.
3. Members using respiratory PPE shall (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602):
  - (a) Ensure that they have no facial hair between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face that could interfere with the seal or the valve function. Members also shall ensure that they have no other condition that will interfere with the face piece seal or the valve function.
  - (b) Not wear corrective glasses, goggles or other PPE that interferes with the seal of the face piece, or that has not been previously tested for use with that respiratory equipment.
  - (c) Perform a user seal check per SPD policy and training and as recommended by the respirator manufacturer each time they put on a tight-fitting respirator.
  - (d) Leave a respiratory use area whenever they detect vapor or gas breakthrough, changes in breathing resistance or leakage of their face piece and ensure that the respirator is replaced or repaired before returning to the affected area.

#### D. GAS MASK

1. Full-face air-purifying respirators, commonly referred to as gas masks, may be fitted with mechanical pre-filters or combination cartridge/filter assemblies for use in areas where gases, vapors, dusts, fumes or mists are present. Members must identify and use the correct cartridge based on the circumstances (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602).
2. A scene commander may order the use of gas masks in situations where the use of a SCBA is not necessary. These incidents may include areas where tear gas has or will be used or where a vegetation fire is burning. Gas masks shall not be used if there is a potential for an oxygen-deficient atmosphere.
3. Members shall ensure their gas mask filters are replaced whenever:
  - (a) They smell, taste or are irritated by a contaminant.

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- (b) They experience difficulty breathing due to a filter issue.
- (c) The cartridges or filters become wet.
- (d) The expiration date on the cartridges or canisters has been reached.

#### E. RESPIRATOR FIT TESTING

1. No member shall be issued respiratory PPE until a proper fit test has been completed by a designated member or contractor (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC § R20-5-602).
2. After initial testing, fit testing for respiratory PPE shall be repeated (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602):
  - (a) At least once every 12 months.
  - (b) Whenever there are changes in the type of SCBA or face piece used.
  - (c) Whenever there are significant physical changes in the user (e.g., obvious change in body weight, scarring of the face seal area, dental changes, cosmetic surgery or any other condition that may affect the fit of the face piece seal).
3. All respirator fit testing shall be conducted in negative-pressure mode.

#### F. RESPIRATORY MEDICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

1. No member shall be issued respiratory protection that forms a complete seal around the face until (29 CFR 1910.134; AAC R20-5-602):
  - (a) The member has completed a medical evaluation questionnaire.
  - (b) A physician or other licensed healthcare professional has reviewed the questionnaire.
  - (c) The member has completed any physical examination recommended by the reviewing physician or health care professional.

### **705.10 RECORDS**

- A. The Training Coordinator is responsible for:
  1. Identifying and scheduling PPE training.
  2. Scheduling initial and any required annual fit testing of respiratory protection equipment.
  3. Ensure respirator medical evaluation questionnaires are issued to each member utilizing a respirator (i.e., gas mask, etc) and that each questionnaire is forwarded to a healthcare professional who will review it.
- B. Any medical records associated with respiratory protection equipment shall be maintained by HR.
  1. The records shall be maintained in accordance with the SPD/Town records retention schedule, AAC R20-5-602 and 29 CFR 1910.1020.

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#### **705.11 TRAINING**

- A. Members should be trained in the respiratory and other hazards to which they may reasonably be exposed to during routine and emergency situations.
- B. All members shall be trained in the proper use and maintenance of PPE issued to them, including when use is appropriate; how to apply, remove and adjust PPE; how to care for the PPE; and the limitations of the PPE (29 CFR 1910.132; AAC R20-5-602).
- C. Members issued respiratory PPE shall attend annual training on the proper use of respiratory protection devices (29 CFR 1910.134(k); AAC R20-5-602).

#### **705.12 POLICY ISSUANCE OR REVIEW**

06/13/2024 - Reviewed by Chief John Noland - SP002