

**Personal Protective Equipment:**

**NFPA1851 Standard SOG Template #5**

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**Don't hesitate to get in touch with the Health and Safety Section for further information and resources if you have any questions.**

**Purpose**

This policy outlines the requirements under the NFPA 1851 Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting (PPE).

**Policy**

- A. All PPE shall be maintained in accordance with the NFPA 1851 Standard (AB 2146) and NFPA 1971.
- B. This policy is intended to be in conjunction with and not a replacement of the following:
  - 1. San Diego County Operational Area Policy# 19-A Decontamination
  - 2. San Diego County Operational Area Clean Cab SOG Template
  - 3. San Diego County Operations Area Personal Decontamination SOG Template

**Definitions**

- A. Organization: The entity that directly manages and supervises emergency services personnel.
  - 1. Manufacturer-Trained Organization: A non-verified organization trained by an element manufacturer of the same element type to conduct any one or a combination of advanced cleaning, advanced inspection, and basic repair on the organization's elements.
  - 2. Verified Organization: An organization verified by a third-party certification organization to conduct advanced cleaning, advanced inspection and sanitization, basic repair, and advanced repair on any organization's elements.
  - 3. Refer to the NFPA 1851 document for additional options (1851-20)
- B. Maintenance: The inspection, service, and repair of protective clothing and equipment, including the determination for removal from service.
- C. Soiling: The accumulation of sweat, dust, dirt, debris, and other nonhazardous materials on or in an ensemble or ensemble element could degrade its performance or cause hygiene issues.
- D. Contamination: The accumulation of products of combustion and other hazardous materials on or in an ensemble element that includes carcinogenic, toxic, corrosive, or allergy-causing chemicals, body fluids, infectious microorganisms, or CBRN terrorism agents.
- E. Preliminary Exposure Reduction: Techniques for reducing soiling and contamination levels on the exterior of the ensemble or ensemble element following incident operations.
- F. Advanced Cleaning: The act of removing both soiling and contamination is generally associated with products of combustion.

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G. Specialized Cleaning: The act of removing hazardous materials, soiling associated with body fluids, or other forms of contamination.

**Procedure**

A. Verified Organization or Independent Service Provider (ISP)

1. Independent Service Provider (ISP).
  - i. An independent third party is utilized by an organization to perform advanced cleaning, advanced inspection, and repair services. To comply with NFPA 1851, an ISP must be verified.
2. Organization shall utilize advanced cleaning for routine and PPE contamination. The following requirements for extractor use are as follows:
  - ii. Use NFPA 1851 verified extractors, dryers, and detergent to clean soiled and contaminated PPE.
  - iii. Use “universal precautions” when handling soiled/contaminated PPE
  - iv. Do not take soiled elements into the home or wash them in public laundries or dry cleaning.
  - v. Only front-load washer/extractor shall be used
  - vi. Water temperature shall not exceed 105 degrees F
  - vii. The spin cycle shall not exceed 100 g’s of force
  - viii. The washer/extractor shall be programmable
  - ix. Preprogrammed soak, wash, and rinse cycles shall be used to meet verification expectations.
  - x. PPE shall be dried and stored out of UV rays to prevent the degradation of garments.

B. Annual Requirements

1. Elements shall receive advanced cleaning at least twice per year.
2. Advanced inspections of all issued protective ensemble elements shall be conducted annually and whenever a routine inspection determines potential damage.
3. Routine inspection- Inspect when issued, at the beginning of each shift, and after each use. An advanced inspection is needed if an issue is found during a routine inspection.
4. Complete liner inspection of all garment elements shall be conducted as part of the advanced inspection annually and whenever a routine inspection determines potential damage. The liner system shall be opened to expose all layers for inspection and testing.
5. Repairs will be completed to maintain safety and compliance with NFPA 1851.

- [NFPA 1851 Standard](#)
- [AB 2146](#)