

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide minimum identification requirements for all personal protective equipment worn by fire personnel within San Diego County. Rapid and effective visual identification of fire personnel and their assigned fire companies is important to the overall safety of firefighters and success of ICS organization.

Policy:

All fire agencies within San Diego County shall attempt to adhere to this policy. The intent of this policy is to provide for greater firefighter safety by establishing minimum requirements for the labeling of all personal protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus typically worn by fire personnel. Fire agencies are permitted to use different application systems on certain types of equipment as long as they meet the minimum standards as detailed below.

Definitions:

Cal OES – California Office of Emergency Services

NFPA – National Fire Protection Association

PPE – Personal Protective Equipment

SCBA – Self - Contained Breathing Apparatus

Procedure:

Basic Identification Requirements & Application Systems:

- **Reflectivity**
All letters and numbers must be made of reflective material.
- **Visibility**
All letters and numbers must be of a size and font style that is conducive to easy and effective visual identification on the fire ground, except as specifically detailed below
- **Material Types**
Letters or numbers can be made of reflective sticker material or NFPA compliant sewn-on reflective material.

- **Application Systems**

Letters or numbers can be affixed to the various PPE and SCBA components via an assortment of options depending on agency preference

Identifiers should be removable to ensure that all identifiers are accurate at all times with respect to proper personnel, apparatus and agency assignments.

Minimum Required PPE & SCBA Identifications

The below minimum requirements apply to all agencies with a few minor exceptions as detailed below due to agency specific equipment differences.

SCBA System (harness or cylinder)

- Agency Identifier
- Visible from firefighter's back
- Cal OES designator or spelled out agency name
- Minimum of 1 ¾" tall letters
- Unit Type & Number (Optional, but highly recommended)
- 2-digit unit # or full 4-digit zone #/agency/unit #
- Suggested minimum of 1 ¾" tall letters and numbers



Structural Fire Helmet

- Original Helmet Color
 - Significant staining or fading discolorations must be corrected to reflect original color
- Standard Agency Rank / Color Designations
- Must be accurate at all times
- Most Commonly
 - White – Chief Officers
 - Red – Fire Captains
 - Black or Yellow – Engineers and Firefighters



- Personnel in acting positions should use the appropriate colored helmets for the respective rank within their agency.

- Unit/Agency Identifier

- Both sides of helmet or front of helmet
- 2-digit unit # or full 4-digit zone #/agency/unit #
- Per agency or zone



- Suggested minimum of 1 3/4" tall numbers/letters

- Front Shields

- Front helmet shields and/or numbers on shields are not required unless otherwise directed per internal agency policy
- All front shields with unit numbers should accurately reflect the unit number of the assigned personnel
- Numbers on front shields should not conflict with unit identifiers on the side of the helmet

Structural Turnout Coat

- Agency Identifier
 - Visible from firefighter's back with SCBA
 - Cal OES designator or spelled out agency name, minimum of 3" letters, affixed to upper back
- Last Name – Optional – If used, minimum of 3" letters, affixed to lower back



Wildland Helmet

- Original Helmet Color
 - Significant staining or fading discolorations must be corrected to reflect original color
- Standard Agency Rank / Color Designations
- Must be accurate at all times

- Most Commonly
 - White – Chief Officers
 - Red – Fire Captains
 - Black or Yellow – Engineers and Firefighters
- Personnel in acting positions should use the appropriate colored helmets for the respective rank within their agency.
- Agency Identifier
 - Both sides of helmet
 - 2-digit unit # or full 4-digit zone #/agency/unit #
 - Per agency or zone
- Suggested minimum of 2" tall numbers/letters
- Last Name
- Affixed to back or rear brim of helmet
- Suggested minimum of 1 ¼" tall letters



EMS, Rescue or Other PPE Coat, Non-Wildland

- Agency Identifier
- Visible from firefighter's back
- Cal OES designator or spelled out agency name
- Minimum of 3" letters
- Affixed to upper back or lower back of coat