

Protective Apparel Maintenance

Why it Should be a Top Priority with Safety Professionals



Agenda

1. Overview
2. Top Workplace Hazards
3. Risks Posed by Improperly Maintained PPE
4. PPE Maintenance: Employer Responsibilities
5. Questions & Answers

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Overview

- PIP 2015 Survey of 100 Safety Professionals
- Almost all respondents (95%) are exposed to hazards requiring protective apparel
- Protective Apparel maintenance habits (Review of white paper)

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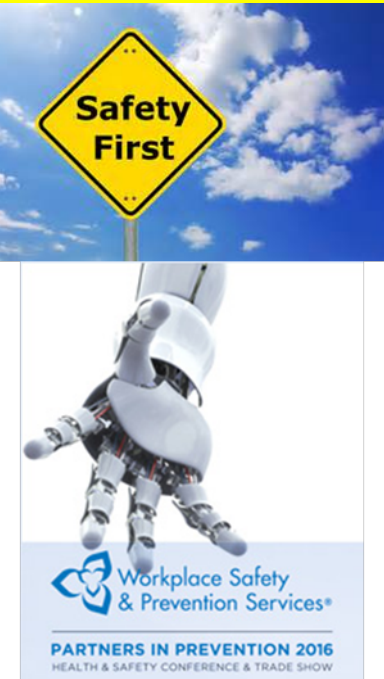


Top Workplace Hazards

- Employers go to great lengths to protect employees
- Most companies require protective apparel
- OH&S regulations require companies to make certain PPE is properly maintained
- Question is – will it protect?

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PPE Maintenance - Employer Responsibilities

The Employer must ensure the garments are:

1. Inspected prior to each use.
2. Laundered per manufacturer's specification.
3. Repaired with like FR materials.
4. Systematically retired from service.



Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c 0.1, section 25 (1)(b)

CSA Z462, CSA Z96, ASTM 1449, ASTM 2757 standards address care and maintenance



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ASTM 1449 (Care & Maintenance)



“Effective cleaning and proper maintenance of the protective characteristics of flame, thermal and arc resistant protective clothing should **include consideration of the services a professional processor can supply**”

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ASTM 2757 (Home Laundering)

Guidelines for companies who mandate home laundry of FRC

Do not use chlorine bleach, hydrogen peroxide, starch, **fabric softeners**, or detergents or pretreatment products with chlorine bleach, hydrogen peroxide or derivatives of chlorine bleach or hydrogen peroxide.

Use **soft water** or detergent specifically designed for hard water. Hard water (greater than 7 grains per gallon of hardness) **can leave residue** on fabrics that may **mask** flame resistance.

It is recommended to **launder** FR and non-flame resistant garments **separately**.

Turn garments **inside out** when laundering.

Tumble dry on hottest setting allowed by the clothing care label. Do not over dry. **Remove from dryer immediately** when dry.

Employer cannot pass the liability to the employee



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Reality of Home Laundering



Wash up to 73° C (165° F)?

No Chlorine Bleach?

No Hydrogen Peroxide?

No Fabric Softener?

Softened Water?



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Repair and Replacement of FRC

- Are repairs being made with FR materials?
- When should a garment be replaced?
- What is the life cycle of a garment?

Cotton = 52 launderings

Cotton Blends = 78 launderings

Synthetic Blends = 78 launderings

Aramids = 130 launderings

*Life cycles are averages only

- Are garments being retired from service?

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Questions & Answers

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<http://www.cintas.com/FlameResistantClothing/webinars/>

Thank You!