

Risk Assessment - Selection of Structural and Proximity Protective Clothing How it Works

Audience:

The Fire Chief or Head of Department of all TCFP regulated fire departments.

Objective:

Regulated fire departments must comply with:

1. Texas Government Code §419.027 – Biennial Inspections
2. Texas Government Code §419.040 (c) – SOP pertaining to the proper use, selection, care, and maintenance of all of its protective clothing.
3. Texas Government Code §419.044 – SOP pertaining to conducting operations in a manner that recognizes hazards and prevents accidents and injuries.
4. Texas Government Code §419.046 – SOP pertaining to proper training and use of SOPs for personnel operating at emergency incidents.
5. Texas Administrative Code §435.1 – Protective Clothing
6. NFPA 1851 (2014) – Chapter 5 Selection, 5.1.1 & 5.1.2 Risk Assessment

Requirement:

1. Fire departments shall purchase, provide and maintain protective clothing for all fire protection personnel.
2. Fire departments shall ensure that protective clothing used by fire protection personnel assigned to fire suppression duties comply with the adopted NFPA standards.
3. Fire departments shall maintain and provide upon request an SOP that complies with the NFPA standard for the selection, care, and maintenance of structural and proximity protective clothing, an SOP that complies with conducting operations that recognize hazards and prevent accidents, and injuries, and a SOP that complies with proper training and use of SOPs with conducting operations.
4. Prior to the selection of structural firefighting ensembles in lieu of proximity gear and not later than February 28, 2017 fire departments shall perform a risk assessment compliant with NFPA 1851.

Plan:

Fire departments with personnel assigned to fire suppression duties shall perform a risk assessment prior to the selection of either structural or proximity fire fighting ensembles. Fire departments shall develop and maintain an SOP pertaining to the proper use, selection, care and maintenance of all of its protective clothing, an SOP that pertains to conducting operations in a manner that recognizes hazards and prevents accidents and injuries, and an SOP pertaining to proper training and use of SOPs for personnel operating at emergency incidents. The SOPs shall utilize the risk assessment for determining which specific fire fighting ensembles are selected. To ensure departments meet these minimum requirements TCFP conducts biennial inspections of all regulated departments.

How It Works:

Upon receiving a biennial Compliance Inspection or other inspection as permitted by statute, a fire department shall make available to the inspector the required SOPs. The inspector will review the SOP to ensure it confirms the risk assessment was utilized by the department to justify the selection of the particular protective ensemble. The inspector may request to review the risk assessment to ensure compliance with NFPA 1851.

Results:

Fire departments reduce the health and safety risks of their fire protection personnel by conducting the risk assessment to determine the best protective ensemble for the fire fighting duties they perform. By developing and maintaining standard operating procedures in compliance with TCFP inspection requirements, fire departments ensure that all the fire protection personnel in the department follow the minimum safety standards adopted by state law. By meeting these objectives all regulated fire departments will assist TCFP compliance officers to consistently and expeditiously conduct fair and objective inspections to support the safety of fire protection personnel in Texas.

Next Steps:

All regulated fire departments shall conduct the risk assessment and update the SOPs with the results as relates to the selection of new structural and proximity fire fighting ensembles not later than February 28, 2017.