

31.4 Instruction and direction

The employer must ensure the adequate instruction and direction of firefighters in the safe performance of their duties.

31.5 Procedures

(1) Written procedures must be established and followed by a fire department or industrial fire brigade to

(a) manage and track firefighters at an emergency incident,

(b) manage exposure to bloodborne pathogens,

(c) manage stress arising from an emergency incident that is likely to cause adverse health effect to firefighters,

(d) provide for effective traffic control at emergency incidents, and

(e) operate firefighting vehicles during emergency and non-emergency travel.

(2) Written procedures must be established and followed by a fire department or industrial fire brigade for the following situations, where applicable:

(a) fires in buildings 7 storeys or over;

(b) firefighting over water and underground;

(c) fires and other emergency incidents involving hazardous substances;

(d) rescue from high angles, confined spaces, trenches, excavations and water;

(e) disaster planning and response;

(f) electrical emergencies.

31.6 Rest and rehabilitation

The incident commander must make suitable provision for rest and rehabilitation for firefighters at an emergency incident.

31.7 Impounding equipment

If, in the course of an emergency incident, a firefighter suffers serious injury or death, or is involved in an accident involving a risk of serious injury or death, the senior firefighter present must immediately impound the protective and other equipment used by the firefighter and keep the equipment out of service until released by the Board.

31.8 Equipment defects

The employer must, without delay, notify the Board of any structural failure or manufacturing defects detected in a firefighting vehicle, apparatus, or other emergency equipment referred to in this Part.

31.9 Test records

The employer must keep the test and inspection records required by this part available at the workplace for inspection by an officer or the joint committee or worker health and safety representative, as applicable.

Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment

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31.10 General requirement

Firefighters must wear personal protective clothing and equipment appropriate to the hazards to which they may be exposed.

31.11 Maintenance

- (1) The employer must have written procedures for the inspection of protective clothing and equipment at regular intervals.
- (2) Procedures for cleaning and drying protective clothing must be in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- (3) Defective items of protective clothing or equipment must be repaired or replaced.

31.12 Firefighter responsibility

Firefighters must ensure that the personal protective clothing and equipment used by them is maintained in good condition.

31.13 Safety headgear

- (1) Safety headgear must be worn by firefighters required to approach the seat of a fire or enter a structure or other hazardous area during an incident.
- (2) Safety headgear must meet the requirements of *NFPA 1972, Helmets for Structural Firefighting: Structural Fire Fighters Helmets, 1992 Edition*.
- (3) Headgear meeting the requirements for safety headgear in [Part 8 \(Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment\)](#) may be used by firefighters
 - (a) while determining the cause of fires, or carrying out duties associated with preventing fires, or
 - (b) at the discretion of the incident commander, while fighting a fire in vegetation that is not within a structure.

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 312/2003, effective October 29, 2003.]

* See also section [4.4](#) of the OHS Regulation.

31.14 Protective coats, pants and hoods

Firefighters required to approach the seat of a fire or enter a structure or other hazardous area during an incident must wear protective coats, pants and hoods meeting the requirements of

- (a) *NFPA 1971, Protective Clothing for Structural Fire Fighting, 1991 Edition*, or
- (b) *CGSB Standard CAN/CGSB-155.1-M88, Firefighters' Protective Clothing for Protection Against Heat and Flame*.
- (c) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 312/2003, effective October 29, 2003.]

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 312/2003, effective October 29, 2003.]

* See section [4.4](#) of the OHS Regulation.

31.15 Stationwear and personal garments

Firefighters required to approach the seat of a fire or enter a structure or other hazardous area during an emergency incident must not wear shirts, trousers, jackets or coveralls that have poor thermal stability or that ignite easily.

31.16 Working gloves

Firefighters required to approach the seat of a fire or enter a structure or other hazardous area during an emergency incident must wear gloves meeting the requirements of *NFPA 1973, Gloves for Structural Fire Fighting, 1988 Edition*.

[Amended by B.C. Reg. 312/2003, effective October 29, 2003.]

* See also section [4.4](#) of the OHS Regulation.