

Scottish Resilience

Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit

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The Clerks to the Joint Fire and Rescue Boards
The Chief Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council
The Chief Executive, Fife Council
The Chief Officer

23 February 2010

Dear Sir/Madam


SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CIRCULAR 1/2010

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) – TUNICS AND OVER TROUSERS

1. Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service (CSFRS) have recently reviewed their maintenance system for PPE. During inspection of PPE, CSFRS found a number of pieces of PPE which didn't meet their maintenance standard. Consequently they have begun a review of all of their PPE, the maintenance system and quality control.
2. Fire and Rescue Services are reminded that an essential element in the protection of firefighters is the provision and maintenance of PPE. To assist in clarification of a complex area, several BS EN standards exist:
 - BS EN 465 is a standard for manufacturers of fire fighting PPE and may form a part of the purchasing specification for Fire and Rescue Services when specifying their requirement for PPE.
 - BS EN 15321 Selection Use Care and Maintenance (SUCAM) are standard guidelines for a maintenance regime, ensuring PPE continues to meet the minimum user standard for safety of their firefighters. The minimum user standard is arrived at by reference to suppliers and manufacturers' advice and guidance and the standard set by each Fire and Rescue Service. Once the maintenance, repair and replacement regime is determined, a system should be in place for ensuring all users understand the role that their PPE performs, the standard of maintenance required to continue that level of protection and when to submit PPE for repair and or replacement.

3. The final part of the system required, is an assurance process to ensure that the system employed to ensure the minimum user standard of PPE is available at all times for firefighters. Including a surety that PPE beyond its useful state is removed from service and cannot be reintroduced by intervention or accident.
4. On receipt of this Fire and Rescue Service Circular, Fire and Rescue Services are advised to review their systems of PPE in the light of CSFRSs experience.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Fraser', written in a cursive style.

Brian Fraser
Head of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Advisory Unit