

	<b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>	OP Number: 000-001
	<b>Structural Protective Gear</b>	Page 1 of 2
Approved: Director of CAFSA		

## Purpose

This standard operating procedure (SOP) will recommend how structural fire fighting protective clothing, donated by **CAFSA**, is to be used to ensure the safety of persons wearing such gear.

## Scope

This SOP will apply to all persons receiving, wearing, and using structural fire fighting protective clothing donated by **CAFSA**.

## Definitions

**Structural fire fighting protective clothing:** This category of clothing, often called turnout or bunker gear, means the protective clothing normally worn by fire fighters during structural fire fighting operations. It includes a helmet, coat, pants, boots, gloves, and a hood. Structural fire fighters' protective clothing provides limited protection from heat but may not provide adequate protection from the harmful gases, vapors, liquids, or dusts that are encountered during hazardous materials incidents.

**Structural fire fighting:** The activities of rescuing, fire suppression, and property conservation involving buildings, enclosed structures, vehicles, vessels, or similar properties that are involved in a fire or emergency situation.

**Interior structural fire fighting:** The physical activity of fire suppression, rescue or both, inside of buildings or enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the incipient stage.

**Incipient (phase) fire:** The beginning of a fire; where the oxygen content in the air hasn't been significantly reduced and the fire is producing minute amounts of water vapor, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and other gases; the room has a normal temperature and can be controlled or extinguished with a portable fire extinguisher or small hose, e.g., a kitchen stove fire.

**Wildfire:** An unplanned and unwanted fire requiring suppression action; an uncontrolled fire, usually spreading through vegetative fuels and often threatening structures.

**Wildland fire:** A fire burning in natural vegetation that requires an individual or crew(s) to expend more than one hour of labour to confine, control and extinguish. Agencies may substitute crews to avoid the one hour bench mark or increase crew size to complete the job in less than one hour. One hour was chosen as the maximum time that individuals should work in high temperatures in structural protective clothing.

Effective Date: December 19, 2006	Revision Date: December 19, 2006
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## Procedure

**CAFSA** recommends that all donated structural fire fighter protective clothing is to be used for interior structural fire fighting in the incipient phase, exterior fire fighting operations, and wildland fires only. **CAFSA** cannot ensure that donated structural fire fighter gear meets manufacturers' recommendations for adequate thermal and vapour protection and as such is not recommended for interior structural fire fighting.

It is not practicable to have structural fire fighter protective gear tested and certified to meet manufacturers' recommendations nor is practicable to have all structural fire fighter protective gear tested and certified to standards such as **NFPA 1971 Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting**. **CAFSA** does its best to ensure the structural fire fighting protective clothing is clean, complete, and without need of significant repair.

## References

- NFPA 1971 -Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting (2007)

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