



SPECIAL ORDER

SPECIAL ORDER 2015.16

Mandatory Hood Inspections

BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Issue Date: March 20, 2015

Expiration Date: Upon publication of revised General Order 530.02: Personal Protective Equipment

OVERVIEW

The Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health has begun the process of planning for the implementation of the “Wash Your Hood Sundays” program. It is a program requiring fire fighters to launder their fire protective hoods on a regular basis, possibly Sundays. This may help reduce the exposure to contaminants and carcinogens collected in the hoods’ fibers over extended periods between cleanings and/or replacement. As part of the process to implement the program in Howard County, the Supply Unit shall inspect each member’s structural firefighting hood.

DEFINITIONS

- None

TOPIC DETAILS

In preparation of implementation of the “Wash Your Hood Sundays” program, the Supply Unit will inspect each members’ hoods to determine the suitability for continued use or if replacement is required. This will help ensure each member has two serviceable hoods to begin the program, and provide some educational information as to the criteria for “serviceable” hoods. Each hood will be labeled with the member’s EID Number and Name with permanent marker on the front bib panel.

The Supply Unit will be requesting each Bureau Battalion Chief, each Shift Battalion Chief, and each Station Captain to have the personnel assigned to their Bureau, Shift, or Station make available for inspection all the hoods a member may have, to include hoods purchased by the member. The hoods of members not present on the inspection date do not have to be collected, they just need to be in plain sight at the storage location of the members turnout gear (on their gear rack). Bureau Battalion chiefs and Shift Battalion Chiefs may want to collect the hoods not in use from members not readily available on the inspection dates. Station Captains will inspect hoods that were not presented to the Supply Unit during their station visits.

The Supply Unit will begin coordinating inspection date schedules with each Bureau Battalion Chief, Shift Battalion Chief, and Station Captain, allowing for the opportunity for personnel to place their hoods in a convenient location so they may be inspected without the members necessarily being present. Inspection of each member’s hoods and replacement hoods provided will be documented to ensure



Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services


SPECIAL ORDER

30 complete application of the program to each member. The quantity of hoods available for some
31 member's Bureau specific assignments may be altered according to need.

32
33 Please contact the Supply Unit for further information as necessary.

34 **FORMS/ATTACHMENTS/REFERENCES**

35
36 Approved:

37


38
39
40 John S. Butler, Fire Chief
41 Office of the Fire Chief

42
43
44 Author:

45


46
Joanne Rund
Assistant Chief Bureau of Safety & Health