



Safety Brief

JCFPD Training Division

February 2015

2015-2



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Our hands are very useful, but are also very prone to injury. At the emergency scene, there are different types of gloves that can and should be used to protect your hands from the possible hazards. Hazards like heat, cold, sharp edges, body fluids, hazmat fluids, and dirty nasty stuff are all things that we may have to handle.

Gloves come in many types, styles and sizes to handle a wide range of protection. The National Fire Protection Association has issued NFPA 1971, *Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting 2007 Edition*. This standard establishes minimum levels of protection for firefighting personnel assigned to fire department operations.

Three types of gloves will be discussed that may be used on the fire or emergency scene, including structural firefighting gloves, leather work gloves, and Nitrile gloves. Each glove type has a specific use and limitation.

The structural firefighting glove is very thick and made out of heavy leather with a thick lining. These gloves are made to provide maximum protection. But they are also very thick and do not allow much dexterity when they are worn. These gloves must meet NFPA standards and are very important part of a firefighter Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). These gloves are expensive and must be taken care of to insure they will protect the user's hands.

Sturdy yet inexpensive leather work gloves are very useful. This type of glove is not designed to handle the heat that is found when fighting a fire, but can protect the hands while performing other work. This includes activities such moving, lifting or carrying fire hoses and tools, or using a

shovel, ax or pike pole while performing overhaul. Leather work gloves must not be used for actual firefighting, but can be used when doing other work on the fire scene that requires protection of your hands. Leather work gloves may also be used when performing auto extrication and rescue. The sturdy leather glove can protect your hands, but still allow some dexterity which can be very important when using the extrication tools.

Both structural firefighting gloves and work gloves do not provide protection from bodily fluids or hazardous materials that may be on the emergency scene. The Nitrile disposable glove may be used at the emergency scene to help protect your hands from bodily fluids and hazardous materials like fuels, oils and antifreeze.

The Nitrile glove is a non-latex glove that is made from a synthetic polymer. These gloves don't contain any protein so they are less likely to cause irritation and allergic reactions. Nitrile will provide protection with direct contact with bodily (blood) fluids and will provide protection from fuels, oils and antifreeze that might be encountered at motor vehicle accidents. Wearing Nitrile gloves under extrication gloves will add a layer protecting the Nitrile gloves from puncture.

Selecting the proper gloves can protect our hands from the hazards on emergency scenes. Wear the proper glove for each job and the gloves will protect your hands during emergency operations. Stay Safe!

Gloves



Safety Brief

JCFPD Training Division

March 2015

2015-3



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Safety Responsibility

A safety program relies upon many different people to be effective. Chief Jim Angle, in his book *Occupational Safety and Health in the Emergency Services*, argues that the safety program can be visualized as a wheel, with each responsible party viewed as a spoke of the wheel. These spokes include:

- o The Incident Commander
- o The Incident Safety Officer
- o District Management
- o Supervisors
- o Individual Firefighters

The strength of a wheel is only as strong as the weakest spoke. Similarly, the strength of a safety program is only as strong as the weakest participant.

You are Important

Individual responders are the most important link in the safety program of the District. Why?

No matter how many safety policies are written, or how many incident safety officers are appointed, the safety attitude of individual responders is the key to safety. Because we often respond from our homes, safety must begin at home also.

Safety Suggestions

Be an active team player: you are a member of a team. Your safety attitude and actions will have a positive or negative affect upon your team. Be prepared to perform your assigned task. Watch out for your team members and remind them about safe procedures.

Be a leader: Display safety leadership to your team. Set a positive example, especially to less-experienced firefighters.

Be a good communicator: This includes both listening and speaking. Listen for clues of hidden hazards, and speak up to suggest safer ways of performing tasks. When working as a team, communicate with all members. For example, when raising a ladder or carrying a drop tank, talk to all firefighters to coordinate proper lifting.

Be aware of surroundings: Maintain constant awareness of surroundings for you and your team. Look for danger signs and communicate your safety concerns to others.

Be aware of your limitations: If you know you cannot perform a task by yourself, ask for help. Lifting injuries can be avoided by using additional firefighters.

Stay Focused: Responders never know when a pager might sound. When notified of an emergency, start thinking about the incident and the potential outcomes. Remain focused on the emergency and don't be distracted.

Don't become complacent: Don't let your guard down. Seemingly innocent calls have serious hazards and can cause injuries.

Don't be surprised: Many events at an emergency scene can be predicted, including fire spread and building collapse after fire exposure. Predict bad outcomes and be prepared.

Don't be a hero: Remember your own limitations and the limitations of your team. Balance risks and benefits.

Protect Yourself

You are the most important link in the District's safety program. Adopt a positive safety attitude!



Safety Brief

JCFPD Training Division

May 2015

2015-5



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Severe Storm Safety

Tornado Awareness

Tornadoes are relatively short-lived local storms. They are composed of violently rotating columns of air that descend in a funnel shape from a thunderstorm. The weather conditions that tend to generate tornadic storms are unseasonably warm and humid earth surface air, cold air at mid atmospheric levels and strong upper-level jet stream winds. Tornadoes can occur anywhere in the US during any month of the year. However, the Great Plains and Gulf Coast States experience the largest number of tornadoes. The greatest frequency of tornados occur in April, May and June. Tornado destruction paths range from 50 yards in width and 1/2 mile in length to over 1 mile in width and 300 miles in length. Tornadoes will travel up to 60 mph with wind speeds approaching 400 mph.

Signs and Warnings

Tornadoes develop from severe thunderstorms. While not all thunderstorms produce tornadoes, the potential is exists. During violent weather, keep tuned to local TV or radio stations for tornado reports. NOAA weather radios are programmed to alert a specific area for weather warnings. A tornado watch indicates conditions are right for a tornado to develop. A tornado warning indicates a tornado has been sighted or is indicated on radar.

Dangers

Immediate threats from tornadoes are to life and property from violently whirling wind and debris hurled through the air. Long term dangers include the possibility of building collapse, fallen trees and power lines, broken gas lines, broken sewer and water lines, and fires.

Severe Storm Awareness

Severe thunderstorms pose other risks besides tornadoes. High winds, hail, lightening and torrential rain causing flooding are equally as dangerous as tornadoes. A severe thunderstorm warning should be heeded with as much regard as a tornado warning. Severe straight winds and large hail can damage buildings, trees and vehicles.

Preparedness

The safest place to be during a tornado is in a storm shelter. Storm cellars or basements away from windows offer the best protection. If these are not available, plan to find shelter in the center of a building on the ground floor. Bathrooms in the center of a home offer good protection because they are a small space supported by 4 walls in close proximity and have no windows.

Know the location of the storm shelter at work. Have a family emergency plan and practice tornado drills often. If you live in a manufactured home, plan to evacuate your home immediately for a public storm shelter. As part of the emergency plan, have a predesignated meeting area after the event is over to account for family members.

Response

When a tornado is sighted or a warning has been issue, take shelter immediately. If you are driving, get out and go to a nearby building. If a building is not available, drive at a right angle away from the tornado's path. Do not try to outrun the storm. If you cannot avoid the tornado, get out of the vehicle. Lie flat in the nearest depression such as a ditch, culvert or ravine. Protect your head and stay low.

When non-tornadic severe weather occurs, remain indoors in a storm shelter. Do not go outside in any severe weather. If you encounter a flooded road, do not attempt to drive through the water. Less than 3 inches of moving water is enough to wash vehicles off the road.

Recovery

After a severe or tornadic storm passes, keep tuned to local media to get an all-clear signal before leaving a shelter. Sometimes more than one tornado can develop from a storm. Once outside a building, stay out and seek help. Be alert for damaged and leaking utilities. Account for your family's safety before responding to any District calls for service. Keep an eye on the sky and stay safe!