

Santa Barbara City Fire Department - Standard Operating Procedures <b>Safety Operations</b>	Code: <b>S-IV-5</b>
<b>Cleaning PPE</b>	
Chpt: IV PPE	Revised: 7/1/12 Pages: 1

## I. SAFETY

- A. Safety clothes can continue to expose a firefighter if toxic residue on soiled turnouts is allowed to contact sweaty skin and be absorbed into the blood stream.

## II. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of this department that anytime a firefighter(s) is exposed to products of combustion from a fire that she/he responds to while on duty, you should take a hot, soapy shower and wear a complete change of work clothes.
- B. In addition, your safety clothing should be cleaned at the completion of that shift.  
**There are 2 extractors located at station 1 for laundering turnouts.**
- C. **The following link is the cleaning procedure recommended by the manufacturer.**  
**[Turnout Cleaning Instructions](#)**

## III. CLEANING YOUR OWN PPE

- A. If you choose to do your own cleaning it is recommended that you use this wash formula:
  - 1. Presoak collars with spray-n-wash (neck area has greater potential for skin absorption).
  - 2. Wash in warm, not hot water **(not to exceed 105 degrees).**
  - 3. 1 cup bleach
  - 4. 1 cup detergent
  - 5. Fabric softener or final rinse
  - 6. **Cool dry or line dry outside in the shade. Dry by hanging in a shaded area that receives good cross ventilation or use a fan to circulate the air. Do not hang Garments to dry in direct sunlight. Direct sunlight will severely reduce the strength of the seams, and will discolor and greatly reduce the strength and protective qualities of the components of the Garments.**
- B. Routine washing will easily remove most toxic associated with normal products of combustion.