

Personal Protective Equipment

Each cadet is required to have a complete set of personal protective equipment (PPE) meeting the requirements of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) and NFPA Standard 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*. A complete set of PPE includes protective coat with wristlets and collar; protective trousers with suspenders; bunker boots; helmet with face shield, earflaps, and chin strap; protective hood; and gloves.

If a cadet owns PPE or has PPE issued by a fire department, it may be used if it meets the required standards. Otherwise, PPE rental is recommended. Rental providers are listed at the end of this document.

Regardless of the source of the PPE, it must meet these requirements:

- PPE must be compliant with NFPA 1851 requirements on age of PPE.
If Date of Manufacture indicates PPE is 10 years old or more, it cannot be used!
- **PPE used must have received an Advanced Inspection verifying compliance with standards in NFPA 1851 and TCFP regulations.** If the PPE is issued by a department subject to TCFP regulation, it probably meets this standard. PPE issued by volunteer departments and departments in other states may not. ***It is your responsibility to ensure your PPE meets standards!***
- The Advanced Inspection must be performed by personnel qualified to make these inspections under NFPA 1851 standards and must be documented.
- If the PPE is 3 years or more old, it must have a vapor barrier penetration test as part of the Advanced Inspection. This must be documented.
- If the PPE is issued by a department, the chief of the department must complete and sign the PPE form provided in the Fire Academy Packet. PPE provided by rental companies will have these certifications, so this form is not required.
- PPE must be clean and in good repair.

During the academy, PPE must be maintained in good repair and kept clean. Academy staff will inspect PPE at the beginning of the academy, before live burns, and periodically as necessary during the academy. If the academy staff determines that any cadet's PPE does not meet standards, is damaged, or is excessively dirty, the cadet will not be allowed to participate in drills requiring PPE until the damaged/dirty PPE has been cleaned, repaired, or replaced as needed.

Rental Providers

The academy has negotiated a rate for our students with Gear Cleaning Solutions of Dallas, Texas (GCS). Cadets are free to rent PPE from the vendor of this choice, but this vendor has provided us the best combination of pricing and service. If ordering from GCS, be sure to tell them that you are a Texarkana College Fire Academy cadet to get the reduced rate.

Gear Cleaning Solutions – (214) 774-2213 - <http://gearcleaningsolutions.com/> - Mike Holdsclaw

Other possible vendors

Turnout Rental – (866) 887-6688 - <http://www.turnoutrental.com/default.asp>

First in Fire Solutions – (877) 621-7837 – Gilbert Sanchez

Lion TotalCare (Houston) – (713) 644-7400 - www.lionfireacademy.com