

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 you have a set of PPE issued by your department and it meets standards, that is all you need.

Because of the length of the on-line academy, cadets renting PPE will have two sets of PPE. A set of practice gear will be issued to each cadet. This will consist of bunker coat, bunker pants, suspenders, and boots. This PPE will be marked as not for use in fire situations. It can be used for the various practice skills throughout the academy, but not in live fire situations. The PPE rental will include a helmet, gloves, and hood for use with this PPE, as well as compliant PPE for the live burn weekend.

This rental rate and program has been negotiated for our students with Gear Cleaning Solutions of Dallas, TX. Cadets may use any vendor of their choice, but they are unlikely to find a similar program. Full PPE rental for the length of the academy would cost significantly more. Contact information for this vendor is at the end of this information sheet.

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 their 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. Also, you must indicate you are a hybrid academy student as this is a different program from the traditional academy.

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