PREMISE: Personnel must be protected from personal injury to the maximum practical extent while engaged in emergency activities.

PURPOSE: It is the purpose of this practice to minimize injury to County personnel engaged in emergency activities through the wearing of appropriate protective clothing.

SCOPE: All Pennington County fire service personnel should wear full protective clothing, as defined below, when in the proximity of or engaged in any incident or activity which poses a threat to safety or health.

HISTORY: Original Issue January 1, 1993
Revised July 10, 2013

OPERATING PRACTICE:

1. Responsibilities
   A. Firefighters are individually responsible for their own protection.
   B. The Incident Commander may be held responsible for the conformity of his subordinates.
   C. Firefighters should also ensure that others they are working with also conform to protective clothing requirements

2. General
   A. The definition of full protective clothing varies with the type of incident or activity.
   B. Incidents involving combinations of activities (such as medical and extrication) require the wearing of protective clothing appropriate for all the activities in that combination incident.
   C. Items and styles or protective clothing should be NFPA approved and should be kept in good repair.
   D. Synthetic/polyester clothing (to include shirt, pants, underwear, and socks) should not be worn underneath protective clothing.
   E. The following should be considered minimum requirements.

3. Full Protective Clothing by Incident Type
   A. Protective clothing for incidents involving fire or the threat of fire or explosion in a structure, vehicle, refuse, or yard storage include:
      1. Bunker coat with liner
      2. Bunker pants with liner
3. Bunker boots with steel toe and insole
4. Fire resistant hood
5. Helmet with face shield and chin strap
6. Gloves, leather palm, lined (rubber or cloth gloves are not recommended)

Note: There should be no interruption of protection between parts of the protective clothing. Specifically, gloves and coat should be chosen so that no part of the hand, wrist, or arm is exposed when the arm is outstretched, hood and coat should overlap on all sides, coat and pants should overlap, and pants and boots should overlap.

Note: This level of protection should be carried to all incidents, whether or not its use is required, to insure adequate protection in the event that circumstances change or a response is made from a previous alarm without returning to quarters.

B. Protective clothing for incidents involving wildland fires in forested areas and fires under the direction of State Forestry or the U.S. Forest Service include:

1. Wildland fire hard hat or Helmet as in 3.A.5
2. Unlined leather gloves or Gloves as in 3.A.6
3. All-purpose lug sole, lace up, leather work boots
4. Fire resistant pants or coveralls
5. Fire resistant shirt or coveralls or bunker coat
6. Additional items to be carried include:
   a. Equipment belt with
      -fire shelter
      -canteen
   b. Goggles
   c. Headlight or flashlight (when operating in darkness)
   d. Hearing protection (when operating in noisy environment)
   e. Chaps (required when running a chain saw)
   f. Respiratory protection

C. Protective clothing for incidents involving wildland fire in prairie grasslands and not under the direction of State Forestry or the U.S. Forest Service include:

1. Wildland fire hard hat or Helmet as in 3.A.5
2. Unlined leather gloves or Gloves as in 3.A.6
3. Leather footwear
4. Fire resistant pants or coveralls or bunker pants
5. Fire resistant shirt or coveralls or bunker coat
6. Additional items to be carried include:
   a. Equipment belt with
      - fire shelter
      - canteen
   b. Goggles
   c. Headlight or flashlight (when operating in darkness)
   d. Hearing protection (when operating in noisy environment)
   e. Chaps (required when running a chain saw)
   f. Respiratory protection