



SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT TURNOUT “DETAIL” BAGS MEMO

PURPOSE

Under the OSHA Standards for Hazardous Materials and Bloodborne Pathogens, when members are required to transport any components of firefighting PPE, such items should be handled in a way that limits potential exposure to hazardous materials and bloodborne pathogens.

Recognizing the known carcinogenic risks associated with firefighter PPE, the **San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation (SFFCPF)** has generously provided gear bags for every member in suppression. These detail bags are intended to reduce cross-contamination of fireground and other harmful contaminants into personal vehicles, stations, and homes.

POLICY

It is **strongly encouraged** to use these provided gear bags when transporting firefighter PPE. When PPE must be transported in a private vehicle, it should be placed in a Department-supplied plastic bag before being placed into the gear bag. The bag should then be stored in either the passenger compartment or the trunk.

Firefighting PPE should always remain in the gear bag when not in use and **should never be stored in the living area of a home.**

This policy reflects a shared commitment by both the **SFFCPF and the SFFD** to reduce toxic exposures and carcinogens wherever possible. While non-cancerous PPE is not yet available, the issuance of these gear bags is a proactive step in minimizing exposure risk.

These bags have been issued for immediate field use, and **the SFFD Administration has committed to include them as standard-issue equipment for all future recruits.** This action serves as another critical "chip" in our ongoing fight to reduce toxic exposures—chips lead to chunks, and chunks lead to meaningful, department-wide toxin reduction.

DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES – BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN

- If a gear bag is **grossly contaminated** by a bloodborne pathogen, it shall not be cleaned by the member. Instead, place the bag in **two clear bags**, tied or taped closed, and follow Department procedures for contaminated equipment.
- If **slightly contaminated**, the member is responsible for cleaning the gear bag appropriately.



ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- Members are responsible for using the gear bag with the plastic liner anytime they transport firefighting PPE.
- Gear bags must be maintained in a clean condition and stored in areas free from contamination.
- Gear bags are to be **used solely** for transporting firefighting PPE.
- Officers on duty should ensure that members are using gear bags anytime PPE is being transported.