

OFFICIAL USER INFORMATION GUIDE

**PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR
FOR USAR OPERATIONS**



DANGER

- Do not use your Protective Ensemble Elements until you have read and understood all labels on your Protective Elements and this Official User Information Guide.
- Only end user shall separate this guide from the element. Remove guide from the element prior to using the element for emergency operations.

Contents

Introduction	1
Signal Words and Definitions	2
Intended Use of Your Protective Ensemble Elements	4
Specific Safety Considerations	5
Donning and Doffing Your Protective Footwear	14
Cleaning Your Protective Footwear	16
Maintenance and Repairs	19
Inspection of Your Protective Ensemble Elements	19
Frequency of Inspections	20
Storage	20
Retirement of Protective Elements	Inside Back Cover
Warranty Information	Inside Back Cover
Replacement Guides and Labels	Inside Back Cover
Warning Label	Outside Back Cover

Read this guide and all labels before using your protective ensemble. Review this guide on a regular basis.

We acknowledge with thanks the input of the fire service in developing, reviewing and refining this work (especially the fine work of CAFER, NAFER, SAFER & FIERO on their "PPE Care & Use Guidelines").

©Copyright 2002
Total Fire Group
#1 Innovation Court
Dayton, OH 45414

All rights reserved. No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced, copied, paraphrased or, utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

PROTECTIVE ENSEMBLE FOR USAR OPERATIONS

OFFICIAL USER INFORMATION GUIDE

Introduction

Do not use your protective ensemble until you have been thoroughly trained by your fire department or employer in Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) tactics, safety procedures and the proper use of your protective ensemble.

USAR is an **ultrahazardous, unavoidably dangerous** activity. To reduce your risk of death, burns, injuries, diseases and illnesses, you must carefully read and strictly follow this **entire** Official User Information Guide and all labels on your protective ensemble.

When searching, rescuing or engaging in emergency operations, you are constantly at risk of death, burns, injuries, diseases, and illnesses. There is no such thing as a "routine" or "ordinary" emergency operation. While use of safety equipment such as a protective ensemble can reduce your risk of death, burns, injuries, diseases or illnesses, it will not make search, rescue and emergency operations completely safe. Even with the use of your protective ensemble, USAR operations will be **unavoidably dangerous**.

How To Reduce Your Risk

You can reduce - but not eliminate - your risk of death, burns, injuries, diseases and illnesses through the following:

- (a) Proper training and constant practice in USAR and emergency tactics and safety;
- (b) Proper selection, maintenance and use of safety equipment;
- (c) Exercising extreme caution at all times. Your protective ensemble will not make you completely safe from death, burns, injuries, diseases, or illnesses.
- (d) A thorough knowledge of the design, performance and use limitations of NFPA 1500, NFPA 1581, NFPA 1670, NFPA 1851, NFPA 1951, NFPA 1971, NFPA 1991, NFPA 1992, NFPA 1999 and OSHA. You must be knowledgeable of the content of these publications.

Training By Your Fire Department Or Employer

This Guide will not discuss USAR tactics and safety procedures. Proper training and constant practice in USAR tactics and safety procedures must be provided by your fire department or employer consistent with its knowledge and basic approach to USAR and emergency operations.

Your fire department or employer is in the best position to know and respond to the dangers presented by any USAR or emergency operation. Accordingly, the type of safety gear (including protective ensemble) to be used and how it is used must be decided by your fire department or employer at each and every USAR scene or emergency operation.

This Guide will tell you how to maintain and wear elements of your protective ensemble. It will also tell you about the limitations of protection given by your protective ensemble. No protective ensemble or any other safety equipment will protect you from all injuries, diseases, illnesses, burns, conditions, hazards or death.

To reduce - but not eliminate - your risk of death, injuries, diseases, illnesses or burns, you must carefully read, fully understand and strictly follow this entire Guide and all labels on your protective ensemble, the NFPA standards and OSHA regulations. All of the information contained in this Guide and on the labels in your protective ensemble deals directly with your life and safety.

But remember: even with the best protective ensemble, safety procedures and training, during USAR and emergency operations, you are constantly at risk of death, injuries, diseases, illnesses, and burns. ■