Donning and Doffing Procedure: Level “B” Suit and SCBA

Operations Level Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Psychomotor Skills Certification Testing

Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control Certification Division

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Program Goal

Designed for candidates preparing for the Firefighter I (Haz-Mat competencies) or Awareness and Operations Hazardous Materials Level certification examination process to demonstrate the concepts for donning and doffing Level “B” Chemical Protective Suits
Program’s Intent

• Prepare candidates for certification testing in donning and doffing Level “B” Chemical Protective Suits

• Assist instructors to demonstrate donning and doffing Level “B” Chemical Protective Suits

• NOT intended as the ONLY means for donning and doffing Level “B” Chemical Protective Suits

• NOT intended to challenge or change the methodology or configuration of protocol or CONN-OSHA regulations for donning and doffing of Level “B” Chemical Protective Suits in the State of Connecticut
Remove watches, jewelry, etc.

- Remove items that impede movement
- Remove items that may puncture the suit
- Remove items that you don’t want decontaminated
Hydrate

• Suits get warm from the inside
• Ambient temperature also can cause overheating
• Sweating causes dehydration
• Water Only
• No Carbonation
• No Caffeine
"De-Hydrate"

• If it is necessary and without delaying rescue efforts
Medical Surveillance

• Baseline vital signs
  – Heart rate
  – Blood pressure
  – Respiratory rate
  – General well-being

• Follow AHJ medical protocol

• Watch for suit use anxiety
  – Structural Firefighting Gear is one thing, CPE is another
Level “B” Suit

- Level “B” Suit
- Boots
- Inner Gloves
- Outer Gloves
- Helmet
- SCBA
- Chem-Tape (Duct Tape)
Remove Shoes

• In order for CPE and boots to be worn, it will be necessary to remove shoes
• Socks should remain on
Responsible Teamwork

• Work together
• Assist in donning
• Remember: Overexertion may cause fatigue
• Conserve energy for work assignment
Suit on to Waist

- There are many steps involved in donning a Level “B” Suit
- Comfort of the First Responder is important
- Process is cumbersome if Level “B” Suit is fully donned before other ensemble parts are in place
Donning the Boots

- Select boot appropriate for product
- Use an over-sized boot
- Push CPE bootie material to the heel; excess material at toes can be uncomfortable
Taping the Boot

• Continuous piece of tape
• At least one circumference around boot
• Complete seal; no gaps between boot and suit
Create a “Pull Tab”

- Used when Doffing
- At outer end of tape, fold “thumb’s width” back over itself
- Tab should be on outside of leg; chafing may cause tape to release
Don Inner Gloves

- Most of the work will be with the hands
- Inner gloves are the final means of protection
- Comfort and dexterity are important
- Lap the sleeve over the glove
Don Outer Gloves

- Gloves should be compatible with product
- Various sizes; select for best fit
- Overlap the sleeve
Make a Tight Seal

• Bend at elbow to create greatest mobility
• Use one continuous piece of tape
• Wrap at least once around the forearm
• Seal the gaps

• DON’T tape wrist tightly or in a constrictive manner
• When it comes time to doff, the glove and sleeve come off as a unit over the wrist and hand
Create a “Pull Tab”

• Used at Doffing
• At outer end of tape fold “thumb’s width” tape back over itself
• Tab should be on outside of forearm; chafing may cause tape to release
Zipper Extension

- Used to self-doff
- Improves dexterity; layers of gloves
- Fly is too small
Zip the Suit (almost all the way)

• Zip suit to just below the neck in preparation for donning of SCBA
Assist with Donning of SCBA

• Assisting
  – Prevents overexertion
  – Prevents suit stress which may cause abrasion or tearing
  – Addresses limited mobility and range of movement
Don SCBA Facepiece

• Suited First Responder may initially be able to don facepiece
• Assistance in tightening straps may be used
• Assistant can check facepiece seal
Don, Zip and Seal

• Don hood
• Zip completely
• Check visibility
• Remove adhesive protection
• Cover zipper and press adhesive strip against suit
Taping Facepiece and Hood

- Check visibility
- Place three pieces of tape
- Overlap the ends of the tape
- Seal the hood to the facepiece
- Create “Pull Tab” for each piece of tape
On Air; Ready to Work

• Candidate should:
  – Verbalize Assignment
  – Don regulator
  – Give a “thumbs up” signal
  – Notify IC: “On air.”
  – Indicate tools needed
Doffing of Level “B” Suit

• First Responder:
  – Completes final decon rinse station
  – Step into large size plastic trash can liner
  – Doffs CPE
  – Allows Team Member to assist

• A chair or tabletop could be used in place of an Assistant
Assisting While Maintaining Air Supply

- First Responder loosens the shoulder straps and waist belt
- Decon Team Member removes harness from back protecting the facepiece, regulator and hoseline
Use of “Pull Tab”

- Sit
- Use “Pull Tab” to remove tape
- Place tape in trash can liner
Doff Boot

• Use heel-toe release
  – Limit external exposure when possible
  – Boots may be too tight
• Step to next trash can liner to begin removing suit
Remove Tape from Facepiece

- Decon Team Member will indicate where pull tabs are located
- Use “Pull Tab”
- Pull gently
- Place tape in trash can liner
Peel Back Overlap

• Pull back carefully; adhesive may stick to gloves
Unzip suit

- Use zipper extension
- Pull gently
- Zipper can be difficult to use
- Zipper extension could come loose from the fly
Remove Hood; Start to Peel

- Remove hood
- Use gloved hands to remove suit from shoulders (peel)
- Gently shake from the shoulders to release suit
- Keep outer gloves on the outside of suit
Pull Hand from Sleeve

- Remove hand from glove
- Gently shake hand away from glove into the sleeve
- Gently shake suit from shoulders
- Use inner gloved hand on inside to assist with other hand

Inner gloves on inside
Clean, Clean

- Peel down like a banana
- Use inner gloved hands
- Peel from the inside away from torso to lower legs
Step Toward the Cold Zone

- Peel Level “B” Suit using the inner gloved hands on the inside of the suit
- Remove legs and feet
- Move towards the Cold Zone
Continuous Air Flow!

- With the gloved hand loosen the facepiece straps and gently push the facepiece away from the face with activated donning switch (open or on)

- Air MUST continue to flow away from the routes of entry to the body
Remove the Inner Glove

- Remove the inner glove by rolling or peeling the glove from the wrist to the fingertip
Medical Surveillance

• Step to Medical Evaluation Station