

SECTION ONE – PERSONAL ISSUE FIREFIGHTING GLOVES

INTRODUCTION

Firefighting gloves are designed to provide protection against injuries to the hand when properly worn by firefighters during normal operational and training activities.

STANDARD ISSUE

One pair personal issue to all operational personnel.

A small emergency stock of firefighting gloves is held in Brigade stores. These are only to be issued when a firefighters gloves are damaged or contaminated, thus making them unwearable. To ensure that the firefighter remains available for duty a pair of firefighting gloves may be issued from the emergency stock by the Supplies Officer during normal working hours or under the supervision of the Contingency Officer outside normal working hours. The Supplies Officer will raise a form **FB150A** for the issue of the gloves, will mark it 'Stores Issue' and fax it to the Managed Supply Contractor so that they may update the firefighters personal record.

USE

Firefighting gloves should be worn at all times when full firefighting uniform is required, and at other times as required. The gloves are multi-purpose and give protection against heat and cold, penetration by burning embers and give resistance to cuts, and are resistant to water penetration.

There will however be occasions when it will be more appropriate to use a glove more suitable for the task in progress e.g. debris clearing, electrical tasks.

CLEANING

The protective capabilities of any equipment depends upon correct maintenance and cleaning. A recommended technique for washing the gloves is to wear them on your hands and rub them together, using a mild hand soap. A stiff bristle brush may help remove some of the embedded grit and grime.

DO NOT BLEACH this may degrade the Kevlar thread used in the seams and the knitted wristlet.

DRYING

All good leather, as is used in firefighting gloves, should be air dried. Hanger loops are provided in each glove to allow them to be hung on hooks.

DO NOT put wet gloves into pockets where they cannot dry.

DO NOT lay them on radiators or dry them in hot air dryers, as this severely shortens their service life and causes them to become stiff.

DO NOT wring gloves, as this may tear the membrane from the stitching. They should be squeezed to remove excess water from the leather shell.

DO NOT dry clean gloves.

INSPECTION

As with all protective equipment gloves should be inspected after each use. Areas to look for damage include:

- Cuts or worn areas in leather shell or lining material.
- Torn seams or cut threads which may allow seams to separate.
- Torn or snagged knitted wristlets.
- Chemical contamination in the leather or liner which cannot be removed

There are few repairs which can be made successfully, without reducing the protective qualities of the gloves, damaged gloves should be removed from service, labelled with the damaged area noted, and returned to Stores for replacement.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Firefighting gloves are made from double chrome leather which provides optimum durability and heat resistance.

A separate Gore-Tex liner is inserted between the outer skin in inner lining to provide a resistance to water and wind chill.

A flame retardant inner liner also provides added protection against extremes of heat and cold.

A knitted Kevlar wristlet is provided to give wrist protection.