



SHROPSHIRE

Fire and Rescue Service

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**BRIGADE ORDER
TECHNICAL
NO. 5**

PART 7

**PERSONAL WATER
RESCUE CLOTHING
AND EQUIPMENT**

BRIGADE ORDER TECHNICAL NO. 5

PART 7 – PERSONAL WATER RESCUE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

PURPOSE

To provide a description and guidance in the use of personal issue water rescue clothing and equipment.

Personnel carrying out water rescues are provided with effective personal protective clothing i.e.: high quality industrial specification dry suits, thermal underwear, gloves, socks, boots, buoyancy aids, balaclava and a purpose made helmet complete with visor.

STRATEGIC AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Strategic Aim 3 “Secure the highest level of safety and welfare for all staff by providing effective supervision, training, equipment and systems of work.

Corporate Objective 6 “Maintain and improve the health, safety and welfare of all employees”

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REVIEW

The **Deputy Chief Fire Officer** is responsible for ensuring this Order is implemented across the Brigade.

All **Officers in Charge** will be responsible for the day to day operation of the Order.

The **Operational Equipment Officer** will review this order annually in *February* and as and when organisational changes take place.

DESCRIPTION

DRY SUIT

The dry suit is manufactured and is made from a nylon and butyl laminate material with waterproof taped seams. The neck and cuff seals are made from latex and give a comfortable and waterproof fit.

THERMAL UNDERSUIT AND SOCKS

The lightweight thermal undersuit gives a high degree of insulation. It is manufactured from a wool, nylon and lycra mix and is designed to trap the maximum amount of air to achieve maximum insulation, and yet be light and allow freedom of movement. The socks are manufactured from the same materials.

BALACLAVA

The balaclava is made of neoprene. It is designed to fit over the neck seal of the dry suit, and comes complete with an expiratory valve and a face seal.

GLOVES

The gloves have an integrated thermal liner, an abrasion resistant matt finish to aid grip and a latex wrist seal to give a watertight fit.

HELMET

The helmet is of open faced design constructed from kevlar/fibreglass. It has an inflatable liner which can be adjusted to provide maximum comfort and secure fit.

BUOYANCY AIDS

The buoyancy aids are manufactured using closed cell fire retardant PVC foam and produce a minimum permanent buoyancy of 5.5kg.

The jacket is secured by a heavy duty non-corrosive zip. A fully adjustable waist belt and buckle hold the jacket close to the body for a comfortable fit.

BOOTS

Canyoneering boots are synthetic, lightweight boots which give support and protection and a high level of grip in wet conditions.

STANDARD ISSUE

Each member of the water rescue team will have a personal issue of the following items for reasons of health and safety.

Helmet	-	1
Hood	-	1
Thermal undersuit	-	1
Gloves	-	1 pair
Socks	-	2 pairs
Boots	-	1 pair

The following items will be issued for use by any of the water rescue team. These will be held at Shrewsbury station.

Dry Suit	-	8
Buoyancy Aid	-	8

MAINTENANCE

DRY SUIT

Following an incident, the dry suit should be washed off using water and a mild detergent. The suit should then be hung up to dry.

After use, the suit should be inspected for any damage, and if any damage is found it should be indicated and the suit returned to Technical Services for repair.

HELMET

The helmet should be washed off after use using water and a mild detergent.

THERMAL UNDERSUIT, SOCKS AND GLOVES

Thermal undersuits, socks, and gloves should be laundered following the manufacturers instructions.

BOOTS

The boots should be washed off using clean water and allowed to dry naturally.