Donning and Doffing Procedure: Level “B” Suits and SCBA for Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Operational Level

Psychomotor Skills Certification Testing

Connecticut Commission on Fire Prevention and Control Certification Division

October 2008
Level “B” Suit and SCBA Program

This presentation was developed to assist in the training of Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction Operational Level Certification candidates in procedures for Donning and Doffing Level “B” Suits and SCBA.
Objectives

Illustrate proper donning and doffing of Level “B” Suits and SCBA for Hazardous Material and Weapons of Mass Destruction Operational Level appropriate for Psychomotor Skills Certification Testing in the State of Connecticut

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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

- Water Only
- No Carbonation
- No Caffeine
- Suits get warm from the inside
- Ambient temperature
- Sweating
De-Hydrate

- Only necessary if First Responder is going to be involved extended operations
- If it is necessary and without delaying rescue efforts
Medical Surveillance

- Baseline priority
- Heart rate
- Blood pressure
- Respiratory rate
- AHJ medical protocol
- General well-being
- Watch for 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 Your Shoes

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

- Work together
- Assist in donning
- Overexertion may cause fatigue
- Conserve energy for work in the Hot Zone
Suit on to Waist

- There are many steps involved in doffing
- Comfort of the First Responder is important
- Cumbersome of it is fully donned before other parts of ensemble are prepared
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 at Doffing
- At outer end of tape, fold “thumbs width” back over itself
- Tab should be on outside of leg
- Chafing may cause tape to release

Pull tab
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

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Don Outer Gloves

• Gloves should be compatible with product
• Sizes vary
• Overlap the sleeve
Make a Tight Seal

- Bend at elbow to create greatest mobility
- One continuous piece of tape
- 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

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Create a Pull Tab

- Used at Doffing
- At outer end of tape fold “thumbs width” tape back over itself
- Tab should be on outside of forearm
- Chafing may cause tape to release
Zipper Extension

- Fly is too small
- Self-doffing
- Limited dexterity
- Layers of gloves
- Poor visibility
- Fold tape over fly
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
- Suit is bulking; 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

• Check for seal
  – Use assistant’s hand against facepiece opening
Hood, Zip and Seal

- Don hood
- Zip completely
- Check visibility of First Responder
- Remove adhesive protection from overlap material
- Cover zipper and press adhesive against suit
Taping Facepiece and Hood

- Check visibility
- Three pieces of tape
- Overlap the ends of the tape
- Seal the hood to facepiece
- Create “thumb tab” for each piece of tape
On Air; Ready to Work

• Don regulator
• Give a “thumbs up” and ready to go
• Grab tools to work in Hot Zone
• Notify IC you are on air and prepared to enter the Hot Zone
Doffing of Level “B” Suit

- First Responder has completed final decon rinse station
- Step into large size plastic trash can liner
- First Responder will doff CPE
- Decon Team Member will assist
Assisting and Maintaining Air Supply

- First Responder will loosen the straps and waist belt
- Decon Team Member will remove harness from back protecting the regulator and hoseline
Use the Pull Tab

- Sit
- Use Pull tab
- Remove tape
- Place tape in trash can liner
Doff Boot

• When possible remove boots by limiting external exposure
• Boot may be so snug a heel-toe release may not work
• Step towards Cold Zone
Remove Tape from Facepiece

- Decon Team Member will indicate where pull tabs are located
- Place tape in trash can liner
Peel Back Overlap

• Pull back carefully
• Adhesive may gloves to stick to material
Unzip suit

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

- Remove hood
- Use gloved hands and remove from shoulders
- It may help to gently shake from the shoulders
- Keep gloves on 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
- Clean glove on inside to assist with other hand
Clean, Clean

- Peel Down Like a Banana
- Clean inner gloves
- Clean inside the suit
- Peel from the inside away from torso to lower legs

Inner glove on inside
Step Toward the Cold Zone

• Peel Level “B” Suit using the gloved hands on the inside of the suit
• Remove legs and feet
• Moving 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 activating the donning switch.

- 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 the medical surveillance