

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



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



“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



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



“Pull Tab”



Zipper Extension



Fly

- Used to self-doff
- Improves dexterity; layers of gloves
- Fly is too small

Zipper Extension



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



First Responder

Decon Team Member

Trash Can Liner



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



Pull Tab

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

Overlap Material



Unzip suit

- Use zipper extension
- Pull gently
- Zipper can be difficult to use
- Zipper extension could come loose from the fly

Zipper Extension



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



Gloves on outside



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



Inner gloves on inside



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

