

# Product Cleaning Guidance

## Fire Fighters Turnout Gear



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Based on guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and NFPA 1851, any gear suspected of having been exposed to COVID-19 must be isolated and bagged until an accurate determination has been made. **NO PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION MEASURES HAVE PROVEN EFFECTIVE.**

Any gear either confirmed or suspected of exposure shall be subjected to the following while observing universal precautions:

1. Isolate and bag gear at scene.
2. Subject gear to a disinfection cycle in accordance with NFPA 1851, using an appropriate EPA-registered disinfectant.
  - a. If extractor is not available, a soak tank may be used (ref: NFPA 1851 Annex item 7.4.4.1).
3. Following disinfection cycle, subject garments to a specialized cleaning, as per NFPA 1851, which allows for temperatures up to 140°F for specialized cleaning.

For COVID-19, CDC recommends the use of cleaning products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims. You can access a list here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

Note, however, that not every cleaning product is suitable for turnout clothing materials, and the selection process should include consideration of the product's intended use; its formulation and active ingredients; the product manufacturer's instructions for disinfection; and any personnel or material hazards.

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) has published additional information regarding COVID-19, PPE, and decontamination at <https://www.iaff.org/coronavirus/> and <https://www.iaff.org/coronavirus/#preparation-ppe-protection>.

For more detailed information from the CDC, we encourage you to view the following site: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

### Please Note

MSA and Globe rely on the expertise of CDC, EPA, and the other cited authorities, and have not evaluated the effectiveness of any cleaning agents against COVID-19. To the extent the guidance in this Bulletin may go beyond the information in your user manual, it applies only in the context of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) provides limited protection and may help to reduce exposure to biological agents and the risk of viral infection but **IMPORTANTLY IT DOES NOT ELIMINATE** the risk of exposure, infection, illness, or death, including with respect to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19. MSA and Globe do not warrant the efficacy of any of their PPE products, or of the information or products in this Bulletin, in preventing the spread and/or contraction of coronaviruses. It is your responsibility to determine what cleaning products and methods are suitable for your intended use and consistent with guidelines from your employer and the relevant health authorities. MSA and Globe disclaim liability for any loss or damage arising from any information contained herein, whether direct, indirect, special, incidental or consequential, regardless of the legal or equitable theory asserted, including warranty, contract, negligence or strict liability.

The situation with COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. As such, this guidance may be updated as circumstances warrant. Please visit MSA COVID-19 Resource Center (<https://us.msasafety.com/coronavirus>) to ensure that you have the latest version. Furthermore, organizations like the CDC are providing updated information and guidance as it becomes available. For the most-up-to date information on COVID-19, you should regularly consult guidance being published by national and international organizations, such as the CDC, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and/or your local health authority. Guidance on COVID-19, including information on actions needed to prevent, control, and manage contact with the virus, is available at the following websites:

US CDC	<a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html</a>
US NIH	<a href="https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-officials-discuss-novel-coronavirus-recently-emerged-china">https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-officials-discuss-novel-coronavirus-recently-emerged-china</a>
WHO	<a href="https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus">https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus</a>
ECDC	<a href="https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus">https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/coronavirus</a>
IAFF	<a href="https://www.iaff.org/coronavirus/#preparation-ppe-protection">https://www.iaff.org/coronavirus/#preparation-ppe-protection</a>
NFPA	<a href="https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/Resources/Standards-in-action/NFPA-responds-to-the-coronavirus">https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/Resources/Standards-in-action/NFPA-responds-to-the-coronavirus</a>

Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While product uses and performance capabilities are generally described, the products shall not, under any circumstances, be used by untrained or unqualified individuals. The products shall not be used until the product instructions/user manual, which contains detailed information concerning the proper use and care of the products, including any warnings or cautions, have been thoroughly read and understood. Specifications are subject to change without prior notice.

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