

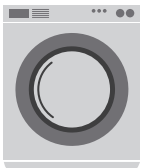
KEEPING YOUR FIRE GEAR **FIT FOR DUTY** ALSO KEEPS YOU **SAFE**

Gone are the days when dirty and raggedy gear was a symbol of an active firefighter. Maintaining your gear is more important than maintaining your image. **Here are some questions you should ask the company that is maintaining your gear.**

1

ARE YOU A VERIFIED ISP?

In order to meet NFPA standards, any provider you use to maintain your PPE should be a full service Verified Independent Service Provider (ISP). Why is this important? It means that your provider annually meets the current editions of NFPA 1851 for turnouts and 1855 for technical rescue garments, for all layers and materials used by your department. It's critical that the ISP has been verified to your specific materials.



2

HOW DO YOU CLEAN PPE?

Turnout gear is made up of layers, and each layer takes on a different role in keeping you safe. Layers should be separated so that they can be cleaned individually, and all like components should be washed together. These layers should then be inspected individually.

3

WHAT SORT OF CLEANING PRODUCTS DO YOU USE?

PPE should be cleaned with a mild cleaning product, specifically formulated for fire service products, within a pH range of 6.0 and 10.5 and washed in a machine with an adjustable extract speed that does not exceed 100Gs. Water temperatures should not exceed more than 105° F. Ideally, Ozone Cleaning technology should be used to treat every garment for biohazards. Ozone cleaning eliminates 99.9% of bacteria and is the best way to extract biological contamination from PPE.



4

HOW DO YOU DRY YOUR GEAR?

Drying gear is a very important step in the process of getting your gear cleaned. Gear should be dried out of direct sunlight and without mechanical drying systems. Ideally, industrial dehumidifiers are used in an enclosed room to remove moisture. This process takes hours, but it preserves the integrity and safety of your gear and prevents hardware on outershells from damaging fabrics in a mechanical dryer.

5

HOW DO YOU CHECK LINER SYSTEMS?

Moisture barrier leakage tests should be performed on liner systems that are less than three years old. Complete liner system inspections should be performed on gear that is three years and older.



6

WHEN IS YOUR ADVANCED INSPECTION PERFORMED?

Advanced inspections should be performed AFTER an advanced cleaning takes place. Accumulated soil can hide damage on gear, which means an issue could be overlooked. Remember, all layers should be inspected individually.

7

DO YOU USE OEM SEWING EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS TO REPAIR GEAR?

Returning gear to service with proper OEM materials and OEM stitching is critical for garment safety and performance. Advanced repairs can only be done by an ISP that is verified to do them, and almost all repairs are considered advanced.

These questions are critical to ask when choosing a service provider to maintain your PPE. Take it from Chicago. The City of Chicago Fire Department (CFD) program started in early 2007 when 15,000 new garments were issued and a LION StaySafe annual maintenance program was implemented. Despite the fact that the CFD handles approximately half a million responses a year, at the end of 2013 less than 1% of the turnouts originally issued in the program had been replaced. The professionals at LION TotalCare continue to help the CFD and others such as Comal County ESD 3-Canyon Lake Fire/EMS maximize the safe, useful life of its gear by performing annual cleaning, inspection and repair.

