

Friday Updates

6/16/2023:

Durham Fire Department Partners with Redline Gear Cleaning

Redline Gear Cleaning, based in Marlborough, Massachusetts, recently teamed up with the Durham Fire Department to perform advanced cleaning and safety inspections of the fire department's personal protective equipment (PPE) gear. Over a two-day period in early June 2023, Redline brought their staff and equipment onsite to the Durham Fire Station to streamline the process that otherwise would require costly multiple shipments of bulky gear to offsite companies.

The advanced cleaning and inspection services are compliant with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard requirements. The standard is designed to identify critical safety deficiencies that may cause injury to a firefighter as well as to limit a firefighter's exposure to the chemicals and carcinogens that build up over time in the fabric of the gear which ordinary laundering cannot eliminate.

For smaller departments, meeting this semi-annual requirement is difficult to attain. While fixed sites in metropolitan areas are not uncommon, mobile services are an emerging industry to meet the demands of increased firefighter safety and health awareness. Identifying deficiencies in gear requires specialized testing equipment and training in addition to dedicated laundering and sanitizing equipment for different components. This makes companies like Redline an extremely valuable resource to aid in fire service safety.

Each set of fire gear (or turn-out gear) consists of 10 components or pieces that are individually inspected, tested, washed, and dried before it is reassembled for use. In total, 42 complete sets of gear (or approximately 420 pieces) were serviced and cleaned. Of those, only 4 critical safety deficiencies requiring repair were found.

The department wishes to extend its appreciation to the community for their commitment in supporting a standard of excellence for firefighter safety. The department also extends its sincere appreciation to Firefighter Barry LaVigne for his ongoing efforts in coordinating this important and critical service.