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## WARNINGS AND USER INFORMATION GUIDE

Protective Hoods for Structural Fire Fighting

NFPA 1971-2018

***Only the end user shall remove this information prior to using this hood.***

*By removing this warning and user information guide from your protective hood you are confirming you have read and completely understood the information and instructions provided.*

### WARNINGS:

**You may die or sustain serious injury if you do not have the special training and knowledge to correctly use this protective hood and/or have not read this warning and user information guide. If you were not given a complete guide or misplaced the user information guide, alert your organization or contact Pro-Tech 8 for a replacement.**

- **Do not use this protective hood if you have not read and understood this guide and the label on your hood.**
- **Do not use this protective hood if you have not been trained and supervised for proper use.**
- **This hood will not protect you from all hazards under all conditions.**
- **This hood must be worn as part of a complete protective ensemble. It is the responsibility of your department or organization to determine the suitability of this hood for its intended use, when this hood must be worn together with other ensemble elements and to ensure that the selected ensemble elements work together to provide the intended protection.**
- **You must properly care for, clean, inspect store and maintain this hood according to the recommended instructions in this guide in order for the hood to provide effective protection.**

Your protective hood is intended to provide limited protection to your head and neck as an interface device of a properly selected and configured protective ensemble during structural fire fighting and related emergency response activities. While your protective hood is designed to provide protection

against a number of fireground hazards, **your protective hood will not protect you against all exposures and under all conditions**, even when worn properly.

## Introduction

This User Information Guide provides information and instructions related to the selection, use, care and maintenance of your protective hood. However, this guide does not tell you when and under what circumstances you should wear your protective hood. Rather, this guide tells you how to wear your protective hood and provides an understanding of the limitations of your hood in how it may or may not protect you. Determining the suitability of your protective hood for specific emergency operations rests with your department or employer, who has the legal responsibility to conduct a hazard assessment and decide if your protective hood provides appropriate protection against identified hazards.

**In addition to this guide which provides basic information to adequately care for and maintain your protective hood, there are certain additional procedures that should be performed only by trained and qualified personnel (such as but not limited to: advanced inspection, advanced cleaning, decontamination and retirement).**

## Pre-Use Information

**General Construction and Features** – Your hood has been manufactured to comply with and is certified to *NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, current edition at time of manufacture. Pro-Tech 8 protective hoods are primarily constructed of fire retardant knit materials that cover the wearer’s head and neck. Protective hoods include a face opening designed to fit around the face-piece of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with a bib/apron that extends down the body on the sides, front and back of the wearer’s upper torso. Some knit hoods include additional insulation layers. The length of the hood depends on the model. Descriptions of the available types of fire retardant materials and style features are available at Pro-Tech 8’s website at [www.protech8.com](http://www.protech8.com).

**Safety Consideration and Use Limitations** – It is critically important that you do not use this protective hood until you have read and understood this entire guide and the labels provided on your protective hood. In order to reduce, but not eliminate, your risks, do not wear this protective hood unless:

- **You Understand Labels, User Information Guide and Applicable Standards:** You have read, fully understand and strictly follow this guide and all labels for this hood; the NFPA standards listed on the hood certification label; and applicable national, state/provincial and local regulations pertinent to emergency operations.
- **Your Use is in Accordance with Applicable Standards and Regulations:** Your use of this protective hood is consistent with NFPA 1500, Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program and Title 29, Code of Federal Regulations Part 1910.132, General Requirements of Subpart I, “Personal Protective Equipment,” and any specific regulations that

pertain to your local area. Knowledge of the design, performance, use limitations and content of NFPA 1971 and NFPA 1851 publications are also recommended.

- **Need for Hazard/Risk Assessment:** Your department, organization or employer has conducted a hazard/risk assessment and by issuing you this hood has determined that this hood provides a suitable/acceptable level of protection against identified hazards for the particular emergency operations consistent with applicable national, state/provincial and local regulations.
- **Your Hood is Properly Adjusted:** Your hood must be properly worn to provide protection to portions of your face, head and neck that are not covered by the SCBA face-piece, coat collar and helmet.
- **Limitations of Protection:** You have been trained and understand that hoods do not provide protection from all hazards and you have been trained and understand how to properly select and properly use the appropriate hood to meet the expected exposure/hazard.
- **Heat Stress:** Wearing your protective hood together with other ensemble elements may increase your risk of heat stress which may cause heart attack, stroke, dehydration or other health related conditions. At the first sign of heat stress, immediately seek medical help.
- **Burn Injury:** Your protective hood will not protect you from all burns and injuries. If your protective hood is exposed to radiant, convective or conductive heat, or comes in contact with a hot environment or hot object, you may be burned underneath the protective hood with no warning and no sign of damage to the protective hood.
- **Heat Sensation:** Your protective hood will lower your ability to feel heat. Do not be misled by the absence of heat or discomfort. Even though you do not feel heat or discomfort, you can be burned or injured suddenly and without warning. If you feel heat or some slight discomfort or unusual sensation under your protective hood, you may already have been burned or are about to be burned. Be constantly alert to the possibility of exposure to heat and other hazards.
- **Barrier Protection:** Your hood, depending on the model selected, may or may not be equipped with a barrier material. Your protective hood will not provide protection from liquid exposure to your head, face and neck area and therefore will not protect you from chemical, radiological or biological hazards which can cause death, injuries, diseases and/or illnesses. Water and other liquids may enter openings in the interfaces between the hood and other ensemble elements. Furthermore, your hood does not offer any protection from hazardous vapors or gases, liquified gases or cryogenic liquids.
- **Additional Hazards:** Your protective hood, even if properly maintained, clean and dry, may not protect you from electrical shock. Wet, dirty and/or contaminated hoods may increase your risk of death, burns or injuries. Your protective hood will not protect you from all physical hazards. Your protective hood may be penetrated, cut or torn by sharp surfaces or objects. Do not use your protective hood if contaminated, cut, punctured, worn, abraded or altered from its original condition.
- **Complete Ensemble:** This hood is effective only when properly worn, accounting for a proper interface with your garment, helmet and SCBA face-piece. This hood is part of a complete ensemble that includes appropriate elements for your overall protection and is consistent with your organization/departments hazard and risk assessment.
- **Care and Maintenance:** This hood must be properly inspected, maintained, cleaned, stored and cared for by your department, organization or employer consistent with these instructions and applicable national, state/provincial and local regulations. Any soiling, contamination, damage

and any alteration that would compromise the integrity and protection that this hood provides will warrant its disposal.

- **Warranty:** This hood is NOT warranted to be fit for a particular purpose. Read carefully the WARRANTY information below. If the label in the hood is missing or becomes unreadable, contact Pro-Tech 8 for further instructions (which maybe include retiring hood from service).

**Marking Recommendations** – Do not attempt to alter or modify your hood. For identification purposes, if permitted by your department/organization, you may mark your protective hood on areas that are not exposed during normal wear/usage OR on the back side of the product label (sewn into the hood) in the NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ section. When marking, use an indelible marker and do not write over or obscure information on the product label.

**Testing and Assessment of Performance** – Representative samples of your protective hood have been evaluated for a number of design and performance requirements as set forth in NFPA 1971, current edition. Such test requirements include hood dimensions, flame resistance, face opening size retention, thermal protective performance, heat and thermal shrinkage resistance, thread melting, label durability, material burst strength and cleaning shrinkage. These performance requirements/properties cannot be evaluated in the field, so if you have any questions check with your department or organization, which in turn can contact Pro-Tech 8.

#### **Warranty:**

Your protective hood is warranted, by Pro-Tech 8, to be free from defects in material and workmanship for the useful life of the product. This warranty specifically excludes accidental damage (acid, nail tears, etc.), intentional or unintentional abuse, natural disasters, damage caused by disregard of care instructions and normal wear and tear (including abrasive wearing of close-tolerance accessories). THESE WARRANTIES ARE EXCLUSIVE AND IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, WHETHER WRITTEN, EXPRESS, IMPLIED, STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE. Pro-Tech 8 shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages.

## **Preparation for Use**

**Sizing and Adjustment** – All Pro-Tech 8 protective hoods are offered in a single size unless custom made. Follow the donning instructions provided in the next section to ensure correct wearing of your protective hood.

**Recommended Storage Practices** – Store your hood only when it is clean, dry and free of contamination. Storing wet hoods will promote growth of mildew, fungus, bacteria or other harmful substances with the potential to cause skin irritation, rashes and diseases and/or illnesses. Wet conditions can also lead to deterioration of hood materials. Keep hoods away from potential contaminants such as oils, greases or other chemical substances. Store your hood in a dry, clean, ventilated area away from direct sunlight and away from tools or other sharp objects. Do not store your hood with the face opening in tension. Do not store your hood in the pocket of your protective coat or pants as this may lead to damage and contamination.

## Inspection Details and Frequency

Your department or organization should have a compliant, systematic, routine and regularly scheduled inspections of your protective hood. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept. Inspect your hood prior to its first use and following every use.

**Before First Use Inspection** – Prior to using the hood for the first time, ensure that the hood does not have any construction flaws or was damaged when being put into service.

**Routine Inspections** – Following every use, inspect your protective hood for:

- Soiling and/or contamination,
- Physical damage such as, but not limited to, rips, holes, tears, frays or cuts,
- Thermal damage such as, but not limited to, charring, burn holes, melting and discoloration of any layer,
- Compromise in seams and/or stitches, ensuring there are no broken or missing stitches (thread),
- Elastic face opening, assess whether the face opening is still elastic and has not become overextended. The face opening of your protective hood must fit securely around your SCBA face-piece each time you wear it,
- Label legibility, labels should not be removed and information/markings should be legible,
- Any questionable or characteristics.

Upon inspection, if any of the above conditions exist, without delay alert the supervisor of your department or organization and request a determination on the continued serviceability of your protective hood. Considering the cost of a new protective hood, repair is generally not practical or recommended.

**Advanced Inspections** – Your protective hood must be subjected to a more thorough inspection at least every 12 months, after every advanced cleaning or whenever there is a concern about its condition for continued service. This inspection must be carried out by an individual with your department or organization who has been trained in advanced inspections or by a qualified and accepted independent service provider. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept.

## Wearing Instructions

**Donning** – Use the following steps for putting on your hood:

1. Place your protective hood over your head with the face opening over your face; push your head through the face opening of the hood so that the hood is around your neck with the face opening forward.
2. Ensure that the bib portion of your protective hood lies flat on your shoulders and upper body and is positioned so that it will remain under your protective garment when the collar is properly secured in accordance with the garment manufacturer's instructions.
3. Put on the SCBA facepiece and adjust the straps for correct wearing in accordance with SCBA manufacturer's instructions.
4. Pull the hood up and over the back of your head, covering the SCBA facepiece straps.

5. Position the facepiece opening of your protective hood so that it covers all areas of your head and face not covered by the SCBA facepiece.
6. Put on and adjust your helmet according to the helmet manufacturer's instructions ensuring that positioning the helmet does not create openings in the protective hood's coverage of your face and head.

**Adjustment for Fit and Interface Issues** – Your protective hood must fit properly and not interfere with other ensemble elements to ensure your proper protection. The hood should overlap all portions of your SCBA facepiece but it should not obscure your vision through the SCBA facepiece visor. Your protective hood should not interfere with the SCBA facepiece-to-face seal. The additional material over your head will require that your protective helmet be adjusted accordingly to remain secure on your head. The bib portions of your protective hood must be tucked in underneath the collar and top of your protective garment so that the bib does not pull out during use. If your hood does not remain tucked in, alert your supervisor that you may need a hood with a longer bib.

**Doffing** – If your protective hood is not contaminated:

1. Remove your helmet first according to the helmet manufacturer's instructions.
2. Pull the face opening area of your protective hood away from your SCBA facepiece and down onto your neck, such that your head protrudes from the protective hood face opening.
3. Remove your SCBA facepiece according to the SCBA manufacturer's instructions.
4. Remove your protective hood from your head by pulling your hood over your head and out from under your protective garment.
5. Inspect your hood as indicated in the instructions above.

**Contamination** – If your protective hood has become contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, chemicals or other hazardous substances, use extreme caution in removing your hood and do not contact the surface of your hood with your bare hands. Seek assistance in removing your hood and other parts of your ensemble to minimize your exposure to any contaminants. Any damage or change in condition must be corrected before you reuse your hood.

## Care and Maintenance Instructions

**Importance of Clean and Maintained Hoods** – It is important that you keep your protective hood clean, free of contamination and properly maintained at all times. Protective hoods that are dirty or contaminated pose significant health hazards. The wearing of soiled or contaminated clothing can cause acute or long-term health hazards. Many contaminants can be absorbed through the skin and some are carcinogenic. In addition, many types of contaminants are flammable. Protective hoods that are soiled do not provide adequate protective performance. Refer to *NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* for additional guidance. If cleaned and maintained properly, hoods will continue to offer their protective properties, but will not do so indefinitely.

**Cleaning Precautions** – Improper cleaning can severely damage protective hoods:

- DO NOT USE Chlorine bleach or other detergents containing chlorine (such substances compromise the protective qualities of your protective hood by rapidly breaking down hood materials).

- DO NOT USE fabric softeners or detergents containing fabric softeners.
- DO NOT WASH protective hood with personal items, in personal laundry or at a laundromat.
- DO NOT commercially dry clean.
- DO NOT line dry in direct sunlight.
- DO NOT store in direct sunlight.
- DO NOT USE wash water or drying temperatures over 105°F (40°C).
- USE regular, mild detergent.
- WEAR protective gloves and eye/face splash protection when cleaning soiled items.

**Machine Wash Cleaning Instructions** – Washing machines and dryers may be used, but only under special conditions. If washing with protective garments, wash your protective hood with only the liners of your protective garments. Do not wash your hood with garment outer shells, as the hardware and hook and loop closures will damage your hood. Use the following procedures if machine washing:

1. Choose a washing machine that is used for cleaning protective clothing. While top-loading machines may be used, front-loading washers/extractors are preferred, as these machines are less likely to physically damage clothing and can be programmed for specific water levels, temperatures and times.
2. Brush off any loose debris. Should any debris or materials be adhered to the components/fabric of the hood, remove the hood from service until it can be professionally inspected and/or cleaned to a serviceable condition.
3. Pre-treat heavily soiled or spotted areas.
4. Unless otherwise instructed, load machine to 80% of its rated capacity. Overloading will result in inefficient cleaning.
5. Use mild wash settings with warm water temperature.
6. Use a regular mild detergent in volume according to the detergent supplier's instructions.
7. Tumble dry low-heat setting or line dry in a well-ventilated, cool, shaded area – NOT IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
8. Inspect the hood and if necessary rewash the protective hood or submit it for advanced cleaning procedures.

**Routine Cleaning** – Clean your protective hood after each use or whenever your hood becomes soiled.

**Advanced Cleaning** – Your protective hood must be subjected to an advanced cleaning at least every 12 months at the time of advanced inspection or whenever soiling requires additional cleaning. Advanced cleaning must be carried out by an individual with your department or organization that is qualified by your department or organization or an Independent Service Provider. Full written documentation of advanced cleanings should be kept.

**Decontamination** – Proper decontamination of your protective hood will depend on the type and extent of contamination. Do not wear a protective hood that was contaminated until verification has been provided that your protective hood is free from contamination.

**Blood or other bodily fluids:** If your protective hood becomes contaminated with blood or bodily fluids, immediately isolate the hood and inform your supervisor, department or organization. Your protective hood must be subjected to an advanced cleaning using specialized procedures.

**Chemicals, toxins, fuels or other hazardous substances:** If your protective hood becomes contaminate with chemicals, toxins, fuels or other hazardous substances immediately isolate your hood and remove it from service. Take extreme caution not to cross-contaminate other clothing items. Immediately inform your supervisor, department or organization.

**Repairs** – Do not attempt to repair your hood. If damaged, report the damage to your supervisor, department or organization and obtain a new hood as a replacement. Considering the cost of a new protective hood, repair is not practical or recommended.

## **Retirement and Disposal**

The decision for the continued service of your protective hood must be made by a qualified individual within your department or organization. If you have any doubts about your protective hood and its condition, immediately bring this matter to the attention of your supervisor, department or organization. Protective hoods that are no longer deemed serviceable for reasons of damage, contamination, or other unsafe condition must be disposed of in a fashion (such as cutting it in pieces) whereby the protective hood cannot be reused. Contaminated hoods must be disposed of by your department or organization in accordance with federal, state/provincial or local regulations.

If you are burned or injured while you are wearing your protective hood, your protective hood must be removed from service and retained by your department or organization.

## **Moisture Barrier**

Some protective hoods are provided with a moisture barrier. While this barrier has been evaluated and tested to *NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, they have not been evaluated for all chemicals that can be encountered during fire fighting operations.

All protective hoods that have come in contact with chemicals should be evaluated per the inspection procedures of *NFPA 1851, Standard on Selection, Care and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*.

### **CONTACT INFO:**

If you have any questions or require more information please contact Pro-Tech 8/TechTrade LLC.

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