

# WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE

## Protective Hood for Proximity Fire Fighting, NFPA 1971-2025

This **WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE** provides the end user with important information about safe use, care, and maintenance and should be retained for further reference.

To be removed by the end user only.



# DANGER

Before wearing your hood, you are advised to review this **WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE**. By wearing your hood, you are confirming that you have read and completely understand the information and instructions provided. 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, and when the 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 the intended protection.

**Do NOT use this hood if you have NOT read and understand this  
WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE.**

**Do NOT use this hood if you have NOT read and understand the information  
on the product label sewn inside your hood. Do NOT use this hood if you have  
NOT been trained and supervised for its proper use.**

## INTRODUCTION

Your hood is intended to provide limited protection to your head and neck as an interface component of a properly selected and configured protective ensemble during proximity firefighting and related emergency response activities. Firefighting is an extremely and unavoidably dangerous activity. The numbers of hazards encountered at fire and emergency scenes are limitless and constantly changing. It is impossible to list all types of hazards which you will confront. While your hood is designed to provide protection against a number of fireground hazards, **your hood will NOT protect you against all exposures and under all conditions**, even when worn properly. You must always exercise caution to avoid hazards for all operations.

This **WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE** provides information and instructions related to the selection, use, care, and maintenance of your hood. This guide does NOT tell you when and under what circumstances you should wear your hood. This guide tells you how to wear your hood and provides an understanding of the limitations in how your hood may or may NOT protect you. Determining the suitability of your 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 hood provides appropriate protection against encountered hazards.

In addition to this guide, which provides basic information to adequately care for and maintain your hood, please refer to **NFPA 1851** for additional procedures that should be performed only by trained and qualified personnel (such as, but NOT limited to **ADVANCED INSPECTION, ADVANCED CLEANING, SANITIZATION, SPECIALIZED CLEANING, STORAGE, AND RETIREMENT**).

## REVIEW BEFORE USING

**General Construction and Features:** Your hood has been manufactured to comply with and is certified to NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Proximity Fire Fighting, current edition at time of manufacture. This hood is constructed of fire retardant knit materials that cover the wearer's head and neck. 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 (the length of the bib/apron depends on the specific hood model).

**Safety Considerations and Use Limitations:** It is critically important that you have read and understood this guide and the label provided on your hood PRIOR to use of your hood. To reduce your risks (but NOT eliminate risk) do NOT wear this hood unless:

**You understand Label, Warning & User Information Guide, and Applicable Standards:** You have read, fully understood, and strictly follow this guide and all labels for this hood; the NFPA standard 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 hood is consistent with NFPA 1550, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and Code of Federal Regulations Title 29, Part 1910 Subpart I-Personal Protective Equipment, 1910.132 General Requirements, 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 standards is 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 adjusted and worn properly to provide protection to portions of your face, head, and neck that are NOT covered by the SCBA facepiece, 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 hood or any other protective ensemble element may increase your risk of heat stress which may cause heart attack, stroke, dehydration, or other health-related conditions resulting in injury, illness, or death. At the first sign of heat stress, immediately seek medical help!

**Burn Injury:** Your hood will NOT protect you from all burns, injuries, diseases, conditions or hazards. If your 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 hood with no warning and no sign of damage to the hood.

**Heat Sensation Awareness:** Wearing this hood may lessen your ability to feel heat. Do NOT be misled by the absence of heat or discomfort while wearing your hood - you can be burned or injured suddenly without warning. While wearing this hood - feeling heat, any discomfort, or an unusual sensation may indicate you have already been burned or are about to be burned. Be constantly aware and alert to the possibility of exposure to heat and other hazards, exercising caution at all times.

**Barrier Protection:** Your 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, liquefied gases, or cryogenic liquids.

**Products of Combustion:** Wearing your hood in a structural or other type of fire will result in its contamination with smoke particulates, fire gases, and other potentially toxic substances that can result in continued exposure, which requires frequent cleaning.

**Additional Hazards:** Your 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 hood will NOT protect you from all physical hazards. Your hood may be penetrated, cut, or torn by sharp surfaces or objects. Do NOT use your 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 facepiece. 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, warrants its disposal.

**Warranty:** This hood is NOT warranted to be fit for a particular purpose. Carefully read the WARRANTY information. If the product label in the hood is missing or becomes unreadable, contact Dawn Enterprises, Inc. for further instructions (which may include retiring hood from service).

**Design and Performance Requirements:** Representative samples of your 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, seam burst strength, and cleaning shrinkage. These performance requirements/properties cannot be evaluated in the field, so if you have questions, contact Dawn Enterprises, Inc.

## WARRANTY

Your hood is warranted, by Dawn Enterprises, Inc., to be free from defects in material and workmanship for one year as long as the hood is properly used and maintained in accordance with this user information guide. This warranty specifically excludes accidental damage, intentional or unintentional abuse, natural disasters, damage caused by disregarding care instructions, and normal wear. This warranty does NOT cover normal wear or unusual exposures, including the wearing of abrasive wearing of close-tolerance accessories (such as voice amplifiers). This warranty does not cover damage due to exposure to ultraviolet light, chemicals, loss of performance due to normal wear or heat exposure, common fire environment hazards or improper use, storage care of maintenance. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but NOT limited to, implied warranties or marketability and/or fitness for a particular purpose. Dawn Enterprises, Inc. shall NOT be liable for incidental or consequential damages.

## INSPECTIONS

Your department or organization should have a compliant, systematic, routine, and regularly scheduled inspections of your hood. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept. Inspect your hood prior to its first use and prior to 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:** Upon inspection, if any of the below conditions exist, without delay alert the supervisor of your department or organization, and request a determination on the continued service-ability of your hood.

Prior to every use, INSPECT your hood for:

- \* soiling and/or contamination,
- \* physical damage such as, but NOT limited to, rips, holes, tears, frays, abrasions or cuts,
- \* thermal damage such as, but NOT limited to, charring, burn holes, melting, degradation and discoloration of any layer,
- \* damage to any special layers,
- \* seams (stitches) integrity – no broken or missing stitches,
- \* elastic face opening: assess whether the face opening is still elastic and has NOT become overextended. The face opening of your hood must fit securely around SCBA facepiece each time you wear it,
- \* shrinkage,
- \* label legibility – labels should NOT be removed, and information/markings should be legible,
- \* questionable appearance or characteristics

**ADVANCED INSPECTIONS:** Your 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 (potential damage). Advanced Inspections must be carried out by an individual within your department or organization who has been trained in Advanced Inspections or by a verified independent service provider. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept that includes the dates of inspection and any findings.

## SIZING

Your hood is a single UNIVERSAL size (327-384 mm Bitragion Arc Length, 306-386 Head Arc Length and 538-601 Head Circumference). Follow the donning instructions provided to ensure correct wearing of your hood.

## WEARING INSTRUCTIONS

**DONNING:** Use the following steps for putting on your hood:

1. Place your 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 hood lies flat on your 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 manufacturers instructions.
3. Put on the SCBA facepiece and adjust the straps for correct wearing in accordance with the SCBA manufacturer's instructions.
4. Pull the hood up and over the back of your head, covering the SCBA facepiece straps. Placing the chin portion of the hood first may make donning easier for some individuals.
5. Position the facepiece opening of your 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 hood's coverage of your face and head.

**INTERFACE ISSUES AND ADJUSTMENTS FOR FIT:** Your 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 hood should NOT interfere with the SCBA facepiece to face seal. The additional material over your head will require that your helmet be adjusted accordingly to remain secure on your head. The bib portion of your hood must be tucked in underneath the collar and top of your garment so that the bib does NOT pull out during use. If your hood does NOT remain tucked in, without delay, alert your supervisor that you may need a longer hood length.

**DOFFING:** Removing your hood procedure varies depending on whether or NOT your hood is CONTAMINATED:

**DOFFING NO CONTAMINATION** - use the following steps for removing your hood:

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

**DOFFING CONTAMINATED** - if your hood has become contaminated with smoke particulate, fire gases, blood, body fluids, toxins, chemicals, or other hazardous substances, use extreme caution in removing your hood. DO NOT contact the surface of your hood with your bare hands. Undertake Preliminary Exposure Reduction to aid in the removal of surface contamination when leaving the fireground or other emergency events when exposure has occurred as described in NFPA 1851. Following Preliminary Exposure Reduction, remove your hood by grasping the hood with both hands (while wearing gloves) below your chin, lifting the hood up and over your head to the rear, avoiding bringing the contaminated hood in front of your face. You may seek assistance in removing your hood and other parts of your ensemble to minimize your exposure to any contaminants. Avoid spreading contaminants to your personal belongings, your living quarters, interior spaces, and vehicles. Any damage or change in the condition of your hood must be assessed or corrected before you reuse your hood.

## CARE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING, AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

**PROPER CARE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND STORAGE OF HOODS:** It is important that you keep your hood clean, free of contamination, properly maintained and correctly stored at all times. Hoods that are dirty or contaminated pose significant hazards. The wearing of soiled or contaminated hoods can cause acute or long-term health hazards. Hoods that are soiled do NOT provide adequate protective performance or requirements. Refer to NFPA 1851 - *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* for additional guidance. A thorough knowledge of the content of NFPA 1851 publication is recommended. If cleaned and maintained properly, hoods will continue to offer their protective properties but will NOT do so indefinitely.

**ADVANCED CLEANING:** Your hood must be subjected to an Advanced Cleaning whenever it is contaminated or its soiling requires additional cleaning AND at least every 6 months, resulting in a minimum of two advanced cleanings in a 12-month period, with one of those advanced cleanings occurring at the time of annual ADVANCED INSPECTION. Advanced Cleaning must be carried out by an individual with your department or organization that is qualified by your department or organization, or a verified Independent Service Provider. Records of Advanced Cleanings should be kept that include the date of cleaning, who cleaned the hood, and the type of cleaning.

Used either hand cleaning or machine cleaning depending on the availability of the correct equipment and procedures. In general, machine cleaning is preferred over hand cleaning. Apply sanitization as needed for biological contamination. All cleaning and sanitization should be subject to preventative measures and precautions listed below. If an Independent Service Provider or cleaner is used for cleaning or sanitization, ensure that they are verified to the NFPA 1851 requirements.

**CLEANING AND SANITIZATION PREVENTIVE MEASURES / PRECAUTIONS:** Improper cleaning can severely damage hoods.

- \* DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING CHLORINE (such substances can compromise the protective qualities of your hood by rapidly breaking down hood materials)
- \* DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENERS OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING FABRIC SOFTENERS
- \* DO NOT USE A WASHING MACHINE THAT EXCEEDS AN ACCELERATION OF 100Gs
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR HOOD WITH PERSONAL ITEMS
- \* DO NOT COMMERCIAL DRY CLEAN
- \* DO NOT LINE-DRY IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* DO NOT STORE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* DO NOT USE A TOP LOADING WASHING MACHINE
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR HOOD WITH GARMENT OUTER SHELLS OR GARMENTS WITH HOOK AND LOOP CLOSURE TAPE
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR HOOD WITH YOUR WORK UNIFORM OR PERSONAL LAUNDRY
- \* DO NOT USE HARSH (HIGH ALKALINE) DETERGENTS OR SOLVENTS AS CLEANING AGENTS
- \* DO NOT USE WASH TEMPERATURES THAT EXCEED 105°F (unless required for specialized cleaning)
- \* DO NOT USE DRYER TEMPERATURES THAT EXCEED 105°F

**HAND CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:** Where hoods are subject to hand cleaning, use a utility sink or other container of sufficient size with the following procedures:

1. Fill the utility sink or container with water no warmer than 105°F and a mild detergent at the detergent manufacturer's recommended ratio of detergent to water.
2. Allow the hood to presoak for a period of at least 10 minutes.
3. Lightly rub the hood material together, starting with the exterior and then turning the hood inside out and similarly rub the interior material against itself. A soft wash cloth can also be used for washing the hoods.
4. DO NOT stretch or wring out the hood as this will distort and damage the hood.
5. Thoroughly rinse the hood following washing. If using a separate container rather than a utility sink, a separate container with clean warm water can be used for this purpose.
6. Following rinsing, air dry the hood in a well-ventilated area by laying the hood on a drying rack or other surface that helps promote draining of water from the hood.



**MACHINE CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS:** Washing machines and dryers may be used, but only under special conditions. Wash your hood only with other hoods. Do NOT wash your hood with other PPE garments, as the hardware and hook/loop closure tape will damage your hood.

Use the following procedures if **MACHINE WASHING AND DRYING:**

1. Choose a washing machine that is used for cleaning protective clothing. Only use a front-loading washer/extractor, as these machines are less likely to physically damage clothing and can be programmed for specific water levels, temperatures, and times. Do NOT use a top loading washing machine or a washer/extractor that exceeds an acceleration of 100 Gs during the extraction cycle. Consult with your machine manufacturer or supplier for the appropriate wash formulation ("wash steps") to have your washer/extractor formulation properly set for washing hoods.
2. Brush off any loose debris with a soft bristle brush. 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 using a suitable pre-spotting agent or cleaner.
4. Unless otherwise instructed, load machine to no more than 80% of the manufacturer rated capacity. Overloading will result in inefficient cleaning.
5. Use mild wash settings with warm water temperature (NOT to exceed 105° F).
6. Use a regular mild detergent in a volume according to the detergent supplier's instructions.
7. If using a machine for drying, tumble dry low-heat setting (NOT to exceed 105° F) or lay the hood on a drying rack or other surface in a well-ventilated, cool, shaded area – NOT IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
8. Inspect the hood before putting it back into service. If the hood does not appear clean, attempt to wash the hood again or seek advice from your department or organization if the hood can remain serviceable.

**SANITIZATION:** When exposed to biological contamination, such as blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials including aerosols, hoods must be sanitized to inactivate or kill the harmful bacteria, viruses, and other microorganisms before cleaning. If not already part of the advanced cleaning procedures, sanitization may be accomplished either manually or in conjunction with machine cleaning using a washer/extractor.

#### **MANUAL SANITIZATION:**

1. Use a soak tank or other vessel that is large enough to hold the number of hoods to be sanitized.
2. Fill the vessel with water and the selected EPA-registered sanitizer added at the concentration specified by the supplier.
3. Place the entire hood(s) in the sanitizer/water solution with all portions of the hood(s) immersed.
4. Leave the hood(s) in the tank or vessel for a period of time indicated by the sanitizer instructions.
5. Subject the hood(s) to Advanced Cleaning by hand washing or machine washing as described above.

**WASHER-EXTRACTOR BASED SANITIZATION:** Place the hood(s) in the washer/extractor and use a machine specified sanitization formulation in conjunction with an advance cleaning formulation suitable for hoods; in the absence of this a wash formulation, program the washer/extractor to have the following steps:

1. Fill to a maximum of 95°F on a low water setting.
2. Inject the EPA-registered disinfectant.
3. Wash/soak for 10 minutes.
4. Drain for 1-minute
5. Extract on low water setting for 4 minutes.
6. Follow with Advanced Cleaning or Specialized Cleaning (specialized cleaning allows the use of higher wash temperatures up to 140°F, which can be needed for some difficult to kill microorganisms).

**SPECIALIZED CLEANING:** When exposed to unusual contaminants, including bulk hazardous chemicals, asbestos, fentanyl or other opioids, or bed bugs, or certain forms of biological contamination, seek advice from a knowledgeable individual in your department or organization, subject matter expert, or verified Independent Service Provider, to determine if the hoods can be adequately decontaminated. In some cases, Advanced Cleaning and Sanitization, can be applied with modified procedures such as the use of higher wash temperatures (up to 140°F). Hoods that are exposed to unusual contaminants must be isolated and bagged until their disposition can be determined. Specialized cleaning can only be performed by an organization, cleaner, or Independent Service provided that is verified to NFPA 1851. If the effectiveness of specialized cleaning cannot be determined as removing the contamination, dispose of the hood in accordance with Federal, state, and local regulations as hazardous waste.

**STORAGE:** Store your hood only when it is clean, dry, and free of contamination. Storing wet hoods will promote growth of germs, bacteria, mildew, fungus, or other harmful substances with the potential to cause skin irritation, rashes, 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 with your personal belongings or in a personal living area. Do NOT store your hood in the pocket of your protective coat or pants as this may lead to contamination and/or damage.

## 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 hood, repair is NOT practical or recommended.

## ALTERATIONS/ MODIFICATIONS

Do NOT attempt to alter or modify your hood. Hoods should NOT be altered to accommodate aftermarket accessories. Hoods must never be punctured to accommodate coat liner snaps even when in bib areas that are normally tucked in. Hoods should NOT be modified with aftermarket custom embroidery. Any aftermarket alteration, modification, or addition will VOID the WARRANTY and will impact the UL Certification of compliance with the current NFPA standard. The only modification permitted is the **MARKING RECOMMENDATION** below:

**MARKING RECOMMENDATION:** If permitted by your department or organization, for identification purposes, you may mark your hood. Mark your hood in areas that are NOT exposed during normal wearing. If you mark the product label (sewn into hood), do NOT write over or obscure information on the product label. When marking, use an indelible marker.

## RETIREMENT AND DISPOSAL

Do not use any hood that has a manufacture date more than 10 years old. The decision for the continued service of your hood must be made by a qualified individual within your department or organization. If you have doubts about your hood and its condition, immediately bring this matter to the attention of your supervisor, department, or organization. Hoods that are no longer deemed serviceable (withdrawn from service) for reasons of damage, contamination, or other unsafe condition must be disposed of in a manner whereby the hood cannot be reused (such as cutting hood into pieces). 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 this hood, your hood must be withdrawn/ removed from service and retained by your department or organization for an appropriate period as determined by your department or organization.



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Rev 1 - 2005