

**Comparison of Use, Storage, and Cleaning Practices for Personal Protective Equipment
Between Career and Volunteer Firefighters in Northwestern Kentucky in the United States**

Supplemental #1: Survey Instrument for Career and Volunteer Firefighters

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

QA1 Gender:

- Male (1)
- Female (2)

QA2 Age: _____

QA3 Please mark which firefighter or other group that best describes you. Please select ALL that apply.

- Volunteer (1) Go to QA3-1 and QA3-2
- Career (2) Go to QA3-3
- Rescue (3)
- EMS (emergency medical services) (4)
- Industrial (5)
- Live fire instructor (6)
- Other (please specify): _____ (7)

QA3-1 If you selected **Volunteer**, what is your primary occupation?

QA3-2 If you selected **Volunteer**, how many hours on average do you serve as a firefighter each week?

- 0-5 (1)
- 6-10 (2)
- 11-15 (3)
- 16-20 (4)
- ≥ 20 (5)

QA3-3 If you selected **Career**, how many firefighters typically work during your shift?

QA4 How many years have you served as a firefighter?

QA5 How many years have you served at your current fire department?

QA6 What is your current employment status as a firefighter?

- Part-time (1)
- Full-time (2)

QA7 What is your typical work shift as a firefighter?

- 12-hour (1)
- 24-hour (2)
- 48-hour (3)
- Other (please specify): _____ (4)

QA8 In which county is your fire department located?

QA9 How many firefighters are in your department?

- Career: _____ (1)
- Volunteer: _____ (2)
- Other (please specify): _____ (3)

QA10 On average, how many non-fire-related activities (e.g., EMS, rescue, vehicle accident, tree removal, etc.) do you participate in per week?

- 0-5 (1)
- 6-10 (2)
- 11-15 (3)
- ≥ 16 (4)

QA11 On average, how many fire-related activities (e.g., fire suppression, etc.) do you participate in per week?

- 0-2 (1)
- 3-5 (2)
- 6-8 (3)
- ≥ 9 (4)

B. PPE (PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT) PRACTICES

QB1 What type of PPE do you wear when performing fire suppression? Please select ALL that apply.

- Coats & pants (1)
- Hoods (2)
- Gloves (3)
- Helmet (4)
- Eye protection (5)
- Hearing protection (6)
- Masks (7)
- Footwear (8)
- SCBA (9)
- Other (please specify): _____ (10)

QB2 When do you wear PPE? Please select ALL that apply.

- I never wear PPE (1)
- Fire-related activities (2)
- Non-fire-related activities (3)
- Always (4)
- Other (please specify): _____ (5)

QB3 How many sets of turnout gear are you issued?

- 0 (1)
- 1 (2)
- 2 (3)
- ≥3 (4)

QB4 How old is your current set of turnout gear? Please answer BOTH newest and oldest if you have more than one set of turnout gear.

- Newest: _____ year _____ month (1)
- Oldest: _____ year _____ month (2)

QB5 On average, what percentage of monetary support does your department supply for the purchase of new gear?

- <10% (1)
- 10-34% (2)
- 35-64% (3)
- 65-99% (4)
- 100% (5)

QB6 How often do you replace your turnout gear?

- Every 1-2 year (1)
- Every 3-5 year (2)
- Every 6-10 year (3)
- Every >10 year (4)

QB7 On average, how many times do you donning and doffing your turnout gear per week?

- 0-2 (1)
- 3-5 (2)
- 6-8 (3)
- ≥9 (4)

QB8 At what point do you take off the SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus)?

- Suppression (1)
- Overhaul (2)
- Investigation (3)
- Other (please specify): _____ (4)

QB9 At what point do you take off your remaining PPE (personal protective equipment)?

- Suppression (1)
- Overhaul (2)
- Investigation (3)
- Other (please specify): _____ (4)

QB10 How do you decide to take off your PPE?

- After air measurement by department (1)
- Following SOP (standard operating procedure) (2)
- Supervisor's guideline (3)
- I feel like it (4)
- Other (please specify): _____ (5)

QB11 Where do you store your turnout gear? Please select ALL that apply.

- Fire truck (1)
- In private vehicle (2)
- Locker in fire department (3)
- At home (4)
- Other (please specify):_____ (5)

QB12 In what type of container do you store your gear? Please select ALL that apply.

- Airtight container (1)
- Mesh container (2)
- Zipper bag (3)
- Other (please specify):_____ (4)

QB13 What determines when you clean your gear?

- After fire (1)
- Visible dirty (2)
- Following SOP (3)
- Other (please specify):_____ (4)

QB14 On average, how often do you clean your gear?

- None (1)
- After each use (2)
- Every 3 months (3)
- Every 6 months (4)
- Every year (5)
- Other (please specify):_____ (6)
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QB15 What type of washer do you use to clean your gear?

- Hose (1)
- Hose with brush (2)
- Top-load washer (3)
- Front-load washer (4)
- Extractor (5)
- Other (please specify):_____ (6)

QB16 What type of cleaning solution do you use? Please briefly describe.

QB17 How do you dry your turnout gear? Please briefly describe.

QB18 On average, how many times per year do you have your turnout gear professionally cleaned by an approved vendor?

- None (1)
- After each use (2)
- Every 3 months (3)
- Every 6 months (4)
- Every year (5)
- Other (please specify):_____ (6)

QB19 Are you familiar with the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards for turnout gear?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Other (please specify):_____ (3)

QB20 Do you have any concerns from dirty PPE before cleaning? If so, please explain below.