



VOLUNTEER TRAINING NOTE 6

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)

Each volunteer needs to be cognisant of personal safety at all times; and extend this to support others for individual and team safety.

Just as in First Aid training, assessment for **Danger** is mandatory before commencing any activities, and all team members must be mindful of the need to stay safe throughout an operation.

“Hurry up and wait” includes taking that moment before leaping into action to think about the consequences of what is about to occur.

Dynamic risk assessment should be practised almost as a reflex.

For the individual, this begins with personal preparedness.

In-field work requires:

Boots, which need to

- support ankles on undulating ground
- protect from hot ground and debris
- prevent penetration by sharp objects
- see below for where to purchase
- visit your local CFS to see boots in action

Clothing

- long sleeves
- long pants
- wool or cotton preferred over synthetics to resist flammability
- SAVEM Operations teams wear red cotton drill overalls
- PPE as appropriate can include helmet, visor/goggles, dust mask, scarf and gloves
- Clothing should be high visibility, enhanced with bright colours and hi-vis vests

Other items for your **To Go Kit (TGK)** include:

- sunscreen
- broad brimmed hat
- insect repellent
- personal medications

SAVEM will not task volunteers with roles which compromise personal safety, are contraindicated due to a medical condition, or are not suited to an individual's level of training or capability.

It is important that volunteers understand that there are many ways to contribute to a response without being on the “front line”. SAVEM does not ask for personal medical information, but anything which needs to be taken into consideration at the outset of a response should be communicated to the Coordinator or to your Team Leaders before activation. Any such disclosure will be treated in the strictest confidence.

The SAVEM Jeep carries a limited amount of communal items of PPE:

- high vis vests
- smoke and dust masks
- woollen blankets
- first aid kit
- overalls
- helmets
- gloves
- head torches

Your own PPE & PPC

Items of PPE & PPC can be purchased through SAVEM if you would prefer to have your own kit.

Ideally this is done in “peacetime” when numbers can be gathered for a bulk order.

Boots however are a very personal item, and should be purchased by each volunteer. In activation, you may be wearing them for many hours.

These are of course useable more generally than for only SAVEM activations.

The boots need to fit well; they should be leather, of fire resistant construction and steel capped.

Two outlets which stock suitable boots are listed below. Both have on-line stores.

South

Fire and Rescue Australia, 190 Main Road Blackwood 5051

Phone (08) 8370 2739

<http://www.fireandrescueaustralia.com>

North

Nowa Australia Fire and Rescue, in Virginia, (08) 8380 9976

(No street address listed on website)

<http://www.nowaaustralia.com.au>

Correctly and appropriately attired volunteers reinforces the SAVEM message of credibility and reliability amongst other Emergency Services.

