

BULLETIN

NO: 25-31
DATE: February 19, 2025
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Ted Moran, Deputy Fire Chief, Logistics Division
SUBJECT: NFPA 1851 - Expired & Damaged Turnouts

As we enter the second round of turnout gear maintenance under NFPA 1851, Logistics has identified a concerning trend: the number of expired garments is expected to significantly exceed our initial projections.

Each turnout jacket and pant have a 10-year service life, expiring exactly 10 years from the manufacturing date indicated on the garment label. These expiration dates are tracked in PSTrax, and when a garment nears or reaches expiration, personnel are notified by the Equipment Manager via email. It is the responsibility of each firefighter to ensure they are not using turnouts past their service life.

Challenges & Immediate Actions

The submission of expired garments during routine pick-ups necessitates sorting to prevent unnecessary laundering costs. This process can be avoided with the assistance of operations personnel. To address this, the following actions are required:

1. All Personnel

- Check your turnout gear for expiration dates and identify any garments set to expire within the next six months.
 - If the label is unreadable, the manufacture year can be found on the inside backing of the buttons on each garment. *(See photo for reference.)*

2. Captains

- Verify the expiration dates of turnouts for all personnel under your supervision before packing them for NFPA 1851 maintenance.

3. Battalion Chiefs

- Ensure expired turnouts are identified during the upcoming PPE inspections in March.

Turnouts identified through these measures should be exchanged for new garments at the Equipment Center. Scheduling a time to conduct the exchange is encouraged. Additionally, to avoid unnecessary sorting and laundering costs, expired garments must not be submitted through the regular maintenance pick-up process.

Repair & Maintenance Considerations

In addition to expired turnout gear, a considerable number of damaged turnouts are being identified for repair. Some have been deemed beyond economical repair, requiring full replacement. As a result, repair and replacement costs have increased unexpectedly, impacting the program's budget.

To reduce costs and turnaround times, all personnel must conduct regular visual inspections of their turnout gear to detect damage early. One of the most common issues requiring repair is ripped reflective trim. Identifying and addressing damage early is crucial to maintaining serviceability and minimizing repair expenses.

Route all questions or concerns through your respective chain of command.

Manufacturing year on button backing:

