NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES SAFETY BULLETIN 2008/08

NEW SOUTH HILL BUILDING WAN

Fully encapsulated suit glove failure

Issue

On 3 December 2008, a NSWFB Station responded to a smell of ammonia at a refrigeration company. Firefighters donned fully encapsulated (FE) suits to investigate the leak, assist in the development of an Incident Action Plan and begin rendering the incident safe. During this process, one of the FE suit wearers carried out the standard procedure for sending a radio message while in an FE Suit. When the wearer grasped the outside of the right glove with the left glove to pull their right arm inside the suit to access the radio microphone, the application of force on the glove detached the right glove from the suit.

Initial investigations indicate that the internal 115 mm diameter red threaded locking collar, which locks the glove to the suit, was not secured or in place.



Figure 1Locking ring in place (internal sleeve)



Figure 2Locking ring removed (internal sleeve)

Current situation

The Deputy Manager Hazmat and the Response Coordinator sent a message to all fire stations requesting an immediate inspection of FE suits, paying particular attention to the glove assembly.

The damaged suit is being transported to the Equipment Development Officer as per In Orders 2008/18, *Equipment Malfunction and Quarantine Procedure*.

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Action

Station:

All Station Commanders are to ensure that all FE suits at their station are inspected to ensure that the internal 115 mm diameter red threaded locking collar is in place and that it is tight.

If the suit glove assembly is not tight or appears to be defective, remove the suit from service, and tag it with a pink tag clearly identifying the fault, along with date, time and reporting Officer. Finally, contact the Hazmat Technical Service Centre on (02) 9709 4335 to organise a replacement suit.

Station Commanders are then to complete the table below denoting the serial numbers of the examined suits and the results of the examination. The completed forms are to be faxed to the Hazmat Technical Service Centre on 9709 2283 by the 12 December. An entry is to be made on the occurrence book indicating the time the information was faxed.

Date	Suit Number	Both Wrist Collars Checked	Action

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Noted, Station	Α	В	С	D	Other
Commander					

Contact Officer:	File Number:	Date:
Inspector Mick Curtis	СНО/01746	5 December 2008
Deputy Manager Hazmat CBR		
Ph (02) 9742 7154 or 0419 267 882		2000

Previous Safety Bulletin 2008/07, Testing and tagging of operational electrical equipment