

NEW SOUTH WALES FIRE BRIGADES

SAFETY BULLETIN 2008/08



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 1

Locking ring in place (internal sleeve)



Figure 2

Locking 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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Noted, Station Commander	A	B	C	D	Other

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

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