

Fire & Rescue NSW

Safety Bulletin 2012/07

2012 Structural Firefighting Uniform 2



Issue

Reports have been received that the zippers in the 2012 design Structural Firefighting Coats have failed under operational conditions despite passing the 'squat test'.

This bulletin outlines additional measures that must be immediately implemented by **all firefighters with the 2012 design Structural Firefighting Uniform**.

Background

Safety Bulletin 2012/06, *2012 Structural Firefighting Uniform*, outlined a test that was designed to check the integrity of the zipper in the 2012 design Structural Firefighting Coat.

A small number of firefighters have reported that despite a coat passing the 'squat test', the coat zippers subsequently failed under operational conditions.

The manufacturer has made significant progress in identifying the causes of the problem and likely solutions, however, to eliminate any possibility of safety concerns the actions below apply.

Actions required

Until the remedial program for the 2012 design Structural Firefighting Coat is implemented, the following actions must occur:

1. Firefighters must revert to their previous design Structural Firefighting Uniform (yellow over-trousers and black coat).
2. If a firefighter only has one set of the previous design Structural Firefighting Uniform they must:
 - a. use the previous design uniform as their primary Structural Firefighting Uniform. The 2012 design Structural Firefighting Uniform may be used as the firefighter's secondary set of the Structural Firefighting Uniform, to be used when their primary set become contaminated or requires laundering.
3. If a firefighter does not have any of the previous design Structural Firefighting Uniform:
 - a. The Station Commander must immediately report to the MICC the need for a set of the previous design Structural Firefighting Uniform, and where possible provide the required size.
 - b. The MICC will immediately inform Operational Logistics who will dispatch a set of previous design structural firefighting uniform by drivers who are currently on standby at the Greenacre complex.

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- c. The firefighter may respond to incidents, but must not, as far as reasonably practical, be tasked to undertake operations within a hazard zone where rapid fire propagation is likely eg: offensive fire attack at a house fire. Alternative operations can be undertaken. Incident Controllers must be informed of this limitation and additional appliances must be called for if required.
4. If the Station Commander has additional problems that have not been covered by the above procedure the MICC or Response Coordinator must be immediately notified.
5. All 2012 design Structural Firefighting Uniforms are to be held at the Station in a secure location. Further instructions will be provided about shipping arrangement etc when the remedial program is implemented.
6. Any firefighter who experiences, or has experienced, a coat passing the 'squat test' but then failing under operational conditions is to submit a near miss report using the [Notification of Injury, Illness, Exposure or Near Miss \(NIIENM\) system](#).

Contact details for the MICC and Response Coordinator

Major Incident Coordination Centre (MICC): Phone 02 9318 4850
Alternatively, contact the Response Coordinator on 02 9318 4802.

Contact officer: Station Officer Luke Unsworth, Operational Safety Coordinator, 0438 640 279, luke.unsworth@fire.nsw.gov.au.

	A	B	C	D	Other
Noted: Station Commander					
Checked: Duty Commander					

Previous Safety Bulletin: 2012/06 2012 Structural Firefighting Uniform