

Operating Guideline # 108

Ice Water Rescue Suit Maintenance and Care

October 6, 2022



PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Operating Guideline (OG) is to establish guidelines to ensure that Ice Water Rescue Suit is maintained in a manner that will protect firefighters during training and while performing their duties at emergency incidents.

GUIDELINE:

General

What to do after using the dry suit.

1. Rinse your dry suit with fresh water. Make sure that all sand and dirt is washed away.
2. Pay attention particularly to the valves and zipper. After closing the zipper put a copious amount of running water over the zipper. Hang suit to dry. Before storing make sure valves and zipper are dry.
3. Before storing the suit, make sure it is dry inside and outside – do not dry the suit directly under the sun or in a place too hot or with high humidity. Choose a place where it could hang in a cool, dry, dust free area.
4. **After the suit is dry**, lubricate zipper after each use, open and close zipper several times. The friction caused by sliding the zipper over the teeth heats the lubricant causing it to flow into the teeth. (If the zipper stitching is fraying, remove the excess with scissors, **be careful not to cut the rubber**)
5. **After the suit is dry**, put some talcum powder on the neck and wrist seals. Use unscented talcum powder. (scented talcum powder could contain ingredients that could deteriorate the rubber).

Storing the Dry Suit

1. Always open the zipper fully when storing the dry suit in its bag.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is the responsibility of all Emergency Operations Division staff to comply with the provisions of this Operating Guideline.

REFERENCES:

Ursuit Standards, Care and Maintenance.