

Personal Protective Equipment:

Donning



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is crucial to maintaining the safety of veterinary responders in emergencies or hazardous situations. However, in order for PPE to function properly, it is important to follow the proper steps of donning PPE. Donning is the procedure of assembling PPE on the user. Level C is worn when there is a known level of contaminants in the air. Chemical-resistant items (e.g., coveralls, gloves) and face and respiratory protection (e.g., air purifying respirators) are used. Level C protection is adequate for most biological exposures that could potentially occur in an animal health emergency. Follow the steps below to ensure that your PPE is donned, or put on, correctly.

Donning Level C PPE

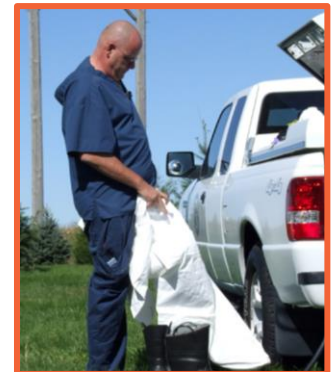
➤ Collect the needed supplies.

- Blunt-nosed scissors
- Two pairs (minimum) of gloves
- Two-piece scrub suit
- Long socks
- Tyvek® or similar suit with boot pouches and hood
- Steel toed rubber boots
- N95 respirator or reusable air purifying respirator (APR)
- Goggles
- Biohazard bags
- Permanent marker
- Supplies needed to perform tasks on-site



➤ Prepare to don items in a changing room or other suitable place in the Cold Zone/Support Zone.

- Layout PPE; ensure you have all of the proper devices and safety need for your response activity.
- Inspect PPE for any damage or rips before use.
- Measure and cut a supply of chemical resistant tape long enough to fit around ankles/tops of boots, wrists, and zipper.
- Cut several extra pieces in case one accidentally sticks to itself and becomes unusable.
- Put tabs on tape to assist with removal.
- Remove the Tyvek® or similar suit from the cellophane wrapping and inspect for tears, rips, or other imperfections then unzip it.



➤ Don PPE.

- Pull on chemical-resistant (e.g., Tyvek®) suit over a clean-two-piece scrub suit. Insert feet into the boot pouches.
- Pull the rest of the protective coveralls on and zip part way up. Do not put on the hood yet.
- Step into steel toed rubber boots. Pull on disposable boot covers.
- Pull on inner latex or nitrile gloves; put on outer chemical resistant gloves.



➤ **Using the buddy system.**

- Tape-seal suit and boot junctions with chemical-resistant tape to keep fluid from entering the boots.
- One to three turns should be sufficient. Leave a tab on the tape end to help with doffing.
- When taping, be sure to leave enough "give" to bend and walk and to prevent ripping.



➤ **Don respiratory protection.**

- Put on the assigned APR respirator (prior medical clearance and fit testing required).
- Perform the required seal check.

➤ **User seal checking:**

- Place face into APR and slide straps over head.
- Place hand over the opening on the exhalation valve.
- Exhale strongly one time; the facepiece should pressurize slightly, then air should escape from the contact area between the sides of the face, forehead, and the facepiece.
- Inhale with hand over the filter cartridges and hold for five seconds (when fitted properly, the facepiece should collapse on face and remain collapsed for the duration of this step).



➤ **Put on goggles if the respirator doesn't cover the eyes. Take care not to disturb the respirator seal.**

- Pull the hood over your head.

➤ **Zip up the suit completely.**

- Tape seal remaining junctions (e.g., zipper, face piece) with chemical-resistant tape.



➤ **Enter work area and perform duties.**

Additional Resources

- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness (FAD PReP): Personal Protective Equipment Guidelines
- http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/emergency_management/downloads/nahems_guidelines/fadprep_nahems_guidelines_ppe_final_april2011.pdf
- NIOSH Certified Filtering Facepiece Respirators http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/topics/respirators/disp_part/
- NIOSH Certified Respirators http://www2a.cdc.gov/drds/cel/cel_form_code.asp
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/personalprotectiveequipment/>

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