

The PODAB Drying Cabinet

Damp and Dirty is Dangerous

Dirty Gear is Dangerous:

"Soot, dust and other surface dirt can pose hazards on the turnout gear unless it is cleaned off immediately after each use. Although the outer material repels fire, a build-up of surface dirt may not. In addition to being hosed down after every use, special solvents can be regularly used to clean the outer layer of any temporary dust and dirt"

From: http://www.ehow.com/about_4812661_firefighter-safety-issues-turnout-gear.html

Dirty Facts:

- Dirty turnout gear is more likely to conduct heat
- Dirty turnout gear can become flammable
- Reflective trim on gear may not be visible, and if you cannot be seen an accident might be lethal
- Hazardous contaminants may be harmful to firefighter's health
- Contaminants & Chemicals from fighting a fire can with time break down the protective properties of your gear
- Dirty gear will increase your risk of combustion, burns, diseases, and death

Damp Gear is Dangerous!

"Whether it has just come out of the laundry or off an intense fireground, turnout gear gets wet. And when it does, it must be dried thoroughly before the next call. McKinney, Texas, Fire Chief Mark Wallace says it is important to have personal protective equipment that is fully dry. At a fire, the water in partially wet gear can boil, causing steam burns to the firefighter wearing it."

From: http://firechief.com/training/apparel/drying_out_0201/index.html

It's apparent that the moisture that can cause steam burns can be caused by anything from sweat, water from fighting fires, or Laundry. It is VERY important to make sure the gear is completely dry, because if the gear is the least damp or moist, the risk for steam burns drastically increases.

Keep Your Gear Clean and Dry

Clean gear lasts longer.

Clean gear saves lives.

Make sure that your gear is clean after each job. It might not be necessary to put your turnout gear in the laundry each time. However, if you hand wash or clean off your gear after each time it has been used, and use the Fire Dryer for an efficient accurate dry, then your gear will last long and keep you safe.



The PODAB Drying Cabinet

Clean Gear Saves Lives



Imagine you are on a job and you brush against a bookshelf, some bottles fall but you don't think much of it because you are busy saving lives. The problem is, the bottle was filled with lamp oil and it got on the arm of your turnout gear. The next fire you walk into, the whole arm becomes a big torch... and a danger to you and the team.

Now, when you get back to the station, do you clean your own gear? How do you clean your gear? Do you avoid cleaning your gear because it takes too long time to dry? NEVER EVER avoid cleaning your gear! If you have a problem, Do NOT avoid it, solve it!

When it comes to a washing machine... use a commercial grade laundry machine so you get the job done right!

One question might be soft or hard mount machines. As we understand it, NFPA recommends a hard mount (Max 100G Force, 500rpm machine to avoid wearing out turnout gear.

Drying Options:

First and most important: The gear MUST BE DRY!

If it is not dry it can be dangerous to you as the humidity trapped in the gear can become steam when you fight fire. Turnout gear will protect you from the fire, but steam can be trapped between the gear and you and melt your skin!!

-Hang cloths out of sun, inside out in a location with good ventilation.

(recommended by NFPA, but it takes long time!)

-Hang clothes in the sun to speed up the process.

(NOT recommended by NFPA, adds wear to turnout gear and worn-out turnout gear is dangerous as it gives a false sense of protection!)

-Hang clothes on some pipes that blow air.

This option is better but it still takes long time to dry and how does one know that the gear is REALLY dry?

-A dry cabinet that can blow hot air in the turnout gear.

It will dry turnout gear even faster, however, over drying it will wear out the gear and worn-out gear gives a false sense of security. Under drying it can cause mold, mildew and uncomfortable wearing. In a worst case scenario, the locked in moisture will turn to steam and can burn the fireman in the next fire.

-A Fire Dryer Cabinet with Humidity Sensors and the latest technology that works with under-pressure to achieve the most efficient dry time.

This perfect solution can guarantee completely dry gear, with virtually no moisture left. It will dry the gear in the most efficient way, and stop when the gear is completely dry for maximum comfort and without unnecessary wear on the gear.

Take care of your gear, and it will take care of you. We care about your success and your future.

