

Interim Warm Jacket

Scope	This Operations Bulletin applies to all operational personnel.
Purpose	<p>To provide guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on the use of the Interim Warm Jacket (previously known as the black turnout coat) in operational situations (Figure 1); to assist Incident Controllers (IC) in determining the appropriate use of the Interim Warm Jacket at a range of incidents; and to ensure that firefighters are equipped with the necessary information to understand the applications and limitations of the Interim Warm Jacket.
Definitions	<p>BA – Breathing Apparatus.</p> <p>Defensive Strategy - non aggressive external (indirect) approach where water streams may be placed between the fire and any exposures to prevent the spread of fire.</p> <p>Dynamic Risk Assessment (DRA) - a simple five step risk assessment process by which hazards are identified and judgements made to control or eliminate risks.</p> <p>Hazard Area - for the purpose of this document is defined as an area in which significant hazards have been identified (e.g. high levels of radiation, flame, smoke, potential for building collapse) and its boundaries are determined based on a DRA.</p> <p>Offensive Strategy - aggressive approach to firefighting, used when conditions allow a direct attack on the fire. In this situation firefighters wearing structural apparel and equipped with BA approach the perimeter of the fire area or enter the structure with charged hose lines to locate, contain and extinguish the fire.</p> <p>Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) – CFA approved clothing and items used to provide personal protection to CFA members from the risks associated with performing a specific operational task for which they are competent and endorsed.</p>
Background	<p>As a result of the development of the Australian and New Zealand Standard for Protective Clothing used for Structural Firefighting (AS/NZS 4967:2006), the 'black turnout jacket' and 'proban' trousers have been unable to meet the performance requirements of the AS/NZS 4967:2006 and subsequently replaced.</p> <p>The Interim Warm Jacket has been assessed (based on testing and a risk assessment process) and approved for use in specified applications.</p> <div data-bbox="810 1563 1034 1861" data-label="Image">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Figure 1</p>

Details

Under no circumstances shall Interim Warm Jackets be used for offensive strategies in the structural environment as they will not adequately protect firefighters. In addition BA must not be worn with these jackets. The Interim Warm jacket is not a substitute for certified Structural PPC.

Australian Standards for Firefighter Protective Clothing

The current AS/NZS 4967:2009 establishes minimum requirements for structural firefighting protective ensembles and ensemble elements designed to provide firefighting personnel with limited protection from thermal, physical and environmental hazards encountered during structural firefighting operations. In addition this Standard states that, “*in emergency situations the PPC, should as far as reasonably practical, safeguard the firefighter, allowing the firefighter to escape to a place of safety (e.g. the onset of flashover)*”.

As the Interim Warm Jacket is unable to meet the performance requirements for structural standards, CFA requested CSIRO to undertake testing on the Jacket to the Bushfire (Wildland) PPC Standard AS/NZ 4824. The results, along with a risk assessment have now provided CFA with information to enable a decision to be taken on the safe use of the Interim Warm Jacket.

Determining PPC Requirements at Fires and Other Incidents

The Interim Warm Jacket shall only be worn (following a DRA) in cold conditions and in low workload situations in order to avoid metabolic heat (heat stress) build-up at:

- Structure fires for defensive fire fighting outside the hazard area (Figure 2);
- Patrol work/mopping up at bushfires; and
- Non-structural incidents.

The level of PPC required to undertake tasks on the fireground shall be determined as part of a DRA.

Table 1 summarises the use of the Interim Warm Jacket for a range of incidents.

Use	Interim Warm Jacket
(Offensive/Direct) Structural Attack Within the Hazard Area as defined	No
Worn with CABA	No
(Defensive/Indirect) Structural Attack Outside the Hazard Area as defined	Yes with conditions DRA
Non Structural Incidents (In cold conditions)	Yes with conditions DRA
Bushfire (In cold conditions) – Patrol work, mopping up	Yes

Table 1. Use of the Interim Warm Jacket

Figure 2 provides a pictorial representation of the application of PPC using the principles of Offensive and Defensive Strategies as the basis.

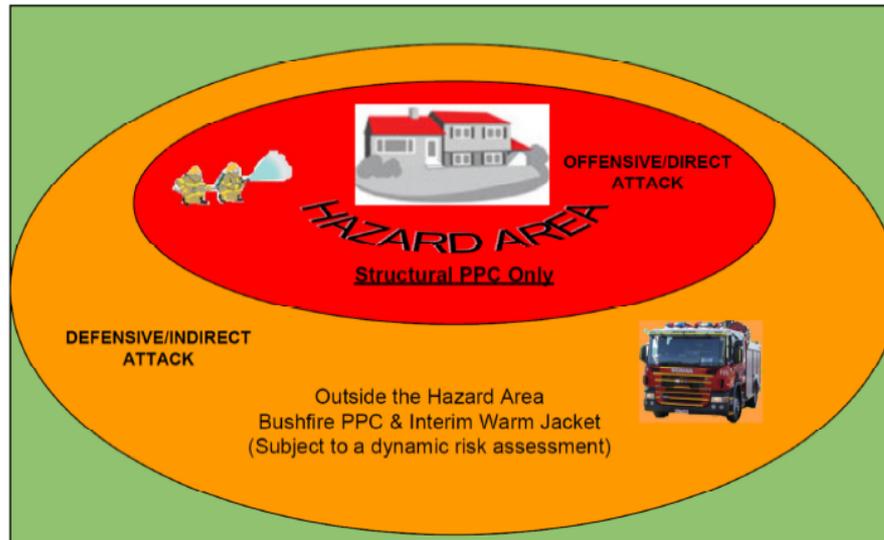


Figure 2. Application of PPC

Firefighters operating outside the 'hazard area' may wear structural/bushfire PPC or the Interim Warm Jacket (as specified in Table 1) in conjunction with bushfire trousers and other approved PPC/E. When operating in this area, the proximity of firefighters to the fire will generally be limited by the human pain threshold from unprotected skin and not the level of protection provided by the PPC.

Throughout an incident, the boundaries of a hazard area will diminish as the risks are controlled to a point where activities may not require full structural PPC. This could include functions such as salvage, overhaul, patrolling, blacking out or on hot days members can dress down appropriately when conducting low risk activities.

Use of Interim Warm Jackets at Bushfires and Other Incidents

The Jackets may be worn at bushfires when conducting patrol work/mopping up during cold conditions (as specified in Table 1). When firefighters are conducting a direct attack on going bushfires, only certified Bushfire (Wildland) PPC shall be used. At non-structural incidents (subject to a DRA) the IC may determine that the Interim Warm Jacket may be in used in cold conditions (as specified in Table 1).

Further Information

- Contact your Operations Manager or Operations Officer if further advice is required.
- Chief Officer's SOP 11.03: Personal Protective Clothing.
- Australian and New Zealand Standard for Protective Clothing used for Structural Firefighting (AS/NZS 4967:2009).
- Australian and New Zealand Standard for Protective Clothing used for Wildland Firefighting (AS/NZS 4824:2006).

Approval

Chief Officer Euan Ferguson.