TEEX Fire Extension
Safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect students and staff during all TEEX Extension–sponsored training activities. These requirements apply regardless of training location and are intended to reduce the risk of injury, illness, or death during training evolutions.

2. Applicability

This policy applies to all TEEX Extension training programs and to all students, instructors, staff, and observers involved in classroom, field, or hands-on training activities.

3. Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ)

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) may require additional PPE or more stringent safety requirements based on local conditions, facility rules, or operational considerations. AHJ requirements shall take precedence over this policy when applicable.

4. PPE Level Framework

TEEX Extension has adopted a five-level PPE framework ranging from Level 0 (Classroom Only) to Level 5 (Specialized Training). PPE levels are determined by the hazards present and the type of training activity being conducted.

5. PPE Levels

Level 0 – Classroom Only

Used for courses that are completely classroom-based with no hands-on or field activities. Everyday, office-appropriate clothing is required. No PPE is required.

Level 1 – Non-Hands-On Field Activities

Used for activities outside the classroom where participants are not actively engaged in hands-on training. Requires full-length pants, non-sleeveless shirts, and closed-toed shoes. Shorts are prohibited.

Level 2 – Hands-On, Non–Live Fire Training

Minimum PPE for hands-on training without live fire. Includes Level 1 requirements plus approved helmet or hard hat, safety-toe footwear, gloves, and restrictions on loose jewelry.

Level 3 – Exterior Live-Fire Training

Minimum PPE for exterior live-fire training. Includes NFPA-compliant structural firefighting ensemble, hood, gloves, boots, eye protection, and SCBA once crossing the red line.

Level 4 – Interior Live-Fire Training

Minimum PPE for interior live-fire training. Requires all Level 3 PPE plus SCBA in use and a PASS device.

Level 5 – Specialized Training

Defines supplemental PPE requirements for specialized training disciplines and does not replace Level 3 or Level 4 requirements.

6. Specialized Training PPE Requirements

Airport Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF)

NFPA-compliant ARFF protective ensembles may be worn for exterior (Level 3) and interior/cabin (Level 4) evolutions.

Rescue Disciplines

Rope, confined space, trench, urban search and rescue, and wilderness operations require discipline-specific NFPA-, OSHA-, and ANSI-approved PPE including helmets with chin straps, gloves, eye protection, and safety-toed footwear.

Vehicle Extrication and Machinery Operations

Requires structural firefighting ensemble or NFPA 1951 technical rescue ensemble. NFPA 1977 wildland ensembles are not acceptable for these operations.

Wildland Firefighting

NFPA-compliant wildland firefighting PPE may be worn in lieu of bunker gear. Firefighting hoods are not required; all other Level 3 requirements apply.

7. Eye Protection

All participants in live-fire training must wear NFPA- and ANSI-compliant eye protection.

8. Heat Stress and Hydration

Heat stress is a serious training hazard. Participants shall be monitored closely and follow hydration, rest, and cool-down procedures. Anyone exhibiting signs of heat stress shall be removed immediately and treated as a medical emergency.

9. Weather and Medical Pre-Planning

TEEX and the AHJ shall maintain and communicate daily weather and medical pre-plans prior to all training activities.