

**CONTAMINATED** - If your protective hood has become contaminated with blood, body fluids, toxins, chemicals, or other hazardous substances, use extreme caution in removing your hood. DO NOT contact the surface of your hood with your bare hands. Remove your hood by grasping the hood with both hands below your chin, lifting the hood up and over your head to the rear, avoiding bringing the contaminated hood in front of your face. You may seek assistance in removing your hood and other parts of your ensemble to minimize your exposure to any contaminants. Avoid spreading contaminants to your personal belongings, your living quarters, interior spaces, and vehicles. Any damage or change in condition must be corrected before you reuse your hood.

#### **CARE, MAINTENANCE, CLEANING AND STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Proper Care, Maintenance, Cleaning, and Storage of Hoods** – It is important that you keep your protective hood clean, free of contamination, properly maintained and stored at all times. Protective hoods that are dirty or contaminated pose significant hazards. The wearing of soiled or contaminated protective hoods can cause acute or long-term health hazards. Many contaminants can be absorbed through/by the skin and some are carcinogenic. Many contaminants are flammable. Protective hoods that are soiled do not provide adequate protective performance or requirements. Refer to NFPA 1851 - *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* for additional guidance. A thorough knowledge of the content of NFPA 1851 publication is recommended. If cleaned and maintained properly, hoods will continue to offer their protective properties, but will not do so indefinitely.

**Cleaning Preventive Measures / Precautions** – Improper cleaning can severely damage protective hoods.

- \* DO NOT USE CHLORINE BLEACH OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING CHLORINE (such substances compromise the protective qualities of your protective hood by rapidly breaking down hood materials)
- \* DO NOT USE FABRIC SOFTENERS OR DETERGENTS CONTAINING FABRIC SOFTENERS
- \* DO NOT WASH YOUR PROTECTIVE HOOD WITH PERSONAL ITEMS
- \* DO NOT COMMERCIAL DRY CLEAN
- \* DO NOT LINE-DRY IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* DO NOT STORE IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- \* Wear protective gloves and eye/face splash protection when cleaning soiled items
- \* Use regular mild detergent
- \* Water temperature not to exceed 105°F (warm water recommended)
- \* Tumble dry heat not to exceed 105°F (low-heat recommended)

**Machine Wash Cleaning Instructions** – Washing machines and dryers may be used, but only under special conditions. If washing with protective garments, wash your protective hood with only the liners of your protective garments. Do not wash your hood with garment outer shells, as the hardware and hook/loop closure tape will damage your hood. Use the following procedures if machine washing and drying:

1. Choose a washing machine that is used for cleaning protective clothing. While top-loading machines may be used, front-loading washers/extractors are preferred, as these machines are less likely to physically damage clothing and can be programmed for specific water levels, temperatures, and times.
2. Brush off any loose debris. Should any debris or materials be adhered to the components/fabric of the hood, remove the hood from service until it can be professionally inspected and/or cleaned to a serviceable condition.
3. Pre-treat heavily soiled or spotted areas.
4. Unless otherwise instructed, load machine to 80% of its rated capacity. Overloading will result in inefficient cleaning.
5. Use mild wash settings with warm water temperature.
6. Use a regular mild detergent in volume according to the detergent supplier's instructions.
7. Tumble dry low-heat setting or line dry in a well-ventilated, cool, shaded area – NOT IN DIRECT SUNLIGHT.
8. Inspect the hood and if necessary rewash the protective hood or submit it for advanced cleaning procedures.

**Routine Cleaning** – Clean your protective hood after each use or whenever your hood becomes soiled.

**Advanced Cleaning** – Your protective hood must be subjected to an advanced cleaning at least every 12 months at the time of advanced inspection or whenever soiling requires additional cleaning. Advanced cleaning must be carried out by an individual with your department or organization that is qualified by your department or organization, or an Independent Service Provider. Full written documentation of advanced cleanings should be kept.

**Decontamination** – Proper decontamination of your protective hood will depend on the type and extent of contamination. Do not wear a protective hood that was contaminated until verification has been provided that your protective hood is free from contamination.

**Blood or other body fluids** - If your protective hood becomes contaminated with blood or bodily fluids, immediately isolate the hood and inform your supervisor, department, or organization. Your protective hood must be subjected to an advanced cleaning, using specialized procedures.

**Chemicals, toxins, fuels, or other hazardous substances** - If your protective hood becomes contaminated with chemicals, toxins, fuels, or other hazardous substances, immediately isolate your hood and remove it from service. Take extreme caution not to cross-contaminate other clothing items. Immediately inform your supervisor, department, or organization.

**Repairs** – Do not attempt to repair your hood. If damaged, report the damage to your supervisor, department, or organization and obtain a new hood as a replacement. Considering the cost of a new protective hood, repair is not practical or recommended.

**Suggested Storage** – Store your hood only when it is clean, dry, and free of contamination. Storing wet hoods will promote growth of germs, bacteria, mildew, fungus, or other harmful substances with the potential to cause skin irritation, rashes, diseases and/or illnesses. Wet conditions can also lead to deterioration of hood materials. Keep hoods away from potential contaminants such as oils, greases, or other chemical substances. Store your hood in a dry, clean, ventilated area - away from direct sunlight and away from tools or other sharp objects. Do not store your hood with the face opening in tension. Do not store your hood with your personal belongings or in a personal living area. Do not store your hood in the pocket of your protective coat or pants as this may lead to contamination and/or damage.

#### **RETIREMENT AND DISPOSAL**

The decision for the continued service of your protective hood must be made by a qualified individual within your department or organization. If you have doubts about your protective hood and its condition, immediately bring this matter to the attention of your supervisor, department, or organization. Protective hoods that are no longer deemed serviceable (withdraw from service) for reasons of damage, contamination, or other unsafe condition must be disposed of in a manner whereby the protective hood cannot be reused (such as cutting hood into pieces). Contaminated hoods must be disposed of by your department or organization in accordance with federal, state/provincial, or local regulations.

If you are burned or injured while you are wearing your protective hood, your protective hood must be withdrawn/ removed from service and retained by your department or organization for an appropriate period as determined by your department or organization.

#### **WARRANTY**

Your protective hood is warranted, by MFA, Inc., to be free from defects in material and workmanship for one year. This warranty does not cover normal wear or unusual exposures, including abrasive wearing of close-tolerance accessories—such as voice amplifiers. This warranty is in lieu of all other warranties, expressed or implied, including but not limited to, implied warranties or marketability and/or fitness for a particular purpose. MFA, Inc. shall not be liable for incidental or consequential damages.



PO Box 248 • 255 Wagner St. • Lehighton, PA 18235

P: 610-377-6273 • F: 610-377-6221

[www.majhoods.com](http://www.majhoods.com) • [cs@majhoods.com](mailto:cs@majhoods.com)

## **WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE**

### **Protective Hoods for Structural Fire Fighting**

### **NFPA 1971-2018, UL Certified**

*By removing this Warning & User Information Guide from your protective hood you are confirming you have read and completely understood the information and instructions provided. Only the end user shall remove this information prior to using this hood.*

- \* Do not use this protective hood if you have not read and understand this guide and the label on your hood.
- \* Do not use this protective hood if you have not been trained and supervised for proper use.
- \* This hood will not protect you from all hazards under all conditions.
- \* This hood must be worn as a part of a complete protective ensemble. It is the responsibility of your department or organization to determine the suitability of this hood for its intended use, and when this hood must be worn together with other ensemble elements, and to ensure that the selected ensemble elements work together to provide the intended protection.
- \* You must properly care for, clean, inspect, store and maintain this hood according to the recommended instructions in this guide in order for the hood to provide effective protection.

## **WARNING – CAUTION - DANGER**

**YOU MAY DIE OR SUSTAIN SERIOUS INJURY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE SPECIAL TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE TO CORRECTLY USE THIS PROTECTIVE HOOD AND/OR HAVE NOT READ THIS WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE. IF YOU WERE NOT GIVEN A COMPLETE WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE OR MISPLACE THE WARNING & USER INFORMATION GUIDE, ALERT YOUR ORGANIZATION OR CONTACT MFA, INC. FOR A REPLACEMENT.**

## INTRO

Your protective hood is intended to provide limited protection to your head and neck as an interface device of a properly selected and configured protective ensemble during structural firefighting and related emergency response activities. Fire fighting is an extremely and unavoidably dangerous activity. The numbers of hazards encountered at fire and emergency scenes are limitless and constantly changing. It is impossible to list all types of hazards which you will confront. While your protective hood is designed to provide protection against a number of fireground hazards, **your protective hood will not protect you against all exposures and under all conditions**, even when worn properly. You must exercise caution at all times to avoid hazards for all operations.

This Warning & User Information Guide provides information and instructions related to the selection, use, care, and maintenance of your protective hood. This guide does not tell you when and under what circumstances you should wear your protective hood. This guide tells you how to wear your protective hood, and provides an understanding of the limitations in how your hood may or may not protect you. Determining the suitability of your protective hood for specific emergency operations rests with your department or employer, who has the legal responsibility to conduct a hazard assessment and decide if your protective hood provides appropriate protection against encountered hazards.

**In addition to this guide which provides basic information to adequately care for and maintain your protective hood, please refer to NFPA 1851 for additional procedures that should be performed only by trained and qualified personnel (such as, but not limited to advanced inspection, advanced cleaning, decontamination, and retirement).**

## REVIEW BEFORE USING

### General Construction and Features

Your hood has been manufactured to comply with and is certified to NFPA 1971, Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting, current edition at time of manufacture. MFA, Inc. protective hoods are primarily constructed of fire retardant knit materials that cover the wearer's head and neck. Protective hoods include a face opening designed to fit around the face-piece of a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), with a bib/apron that extends down the body on the sides, front, and back of the wearer's upper torso (the length of the bib/apron depends on the specific hood model). Descriptions of the available types of fire retardant materials and different style features are provided on MFA, Inc.'s website at [www.majhoods.com](http://www.majhoods.com)

### Safety Considerations and Use Limitations

It is critically important that you have read and understood this guide and the label provided on your protective hood PRIOR to using your protective hood. In order to reduce your risks (but not eliminate risk) do not wear this protective hood unless:

**You understand Label, Warning & User Information Guide, and Applicable Standards:** You have read, fully understood, and strictly follow this guide and all labels for this hood; the NFPA standard listed on the hood certification label; and applicable national, state/provincial, and local regulations pertinent to emergency operations.

**Your use is In Accordance with Applicable Standards and Regulations:** Your use of this protective hood is consistent with NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, and Code of Federal Regulations Title 29, 1910 Subpart I-Personal Protective Equipment, 1910.132 General Requirements, and any specific regulations that pertain to your local area. Knowledge of the design, performance, use limitations, and content of NFPA 1971 and NFPA 1851 publications is also recommended. **Need for Hazard/Risk Assessment:** Your department, organization, or employer has conducted a hazard/risk assessment and, by issuing you this hood, has determined that this hood provides a suitable/acceptable level of protection against identified hazards for the particular emergency operations consistent with applicable national, state/provincial, and local regulations.

**Your Hood is Properly Adjusted:** Your hood must be adjusted and worn properly to provide protection to portions of your face, head, and neck that are not covered by the SCBA facepiece, coat collar, and helmet. **Limitations of Protection:** You have been trained and understand that hoods do not provide protection from all hazards, and you have been trained and understand how to properly select and properly use the appropriate hood to meet the expected exposure/hazard.

**Heat Stress:** Wearing your protective hood or any other protective ensemble may increase your risk of heat stress which may cause heart attack, stroke, dehydration, or other health-related conditions resulting in injury, illness, or death. At the first sign of heat stress, immediately seek medical help!

**Burn Injury:** Your protective hood will not protect you from all burns, injuries, diseases, conditions or hazards. If your protective hood is exposed to radiant, convective, or conductive heat, or comes in contact with a hot environment or hot object, you may be burned underneath the protective hood with no warning and no sign of damage to the protective hood.

**Heat Sensation Awareness:** Wearing this protective hood may lessen your ability to feel heat. Do not be misled by the absence of heat or discomfort while wearing your protective hood - you can be burned or injured suddenly without warning. While wearing this protective hood - feeling heat, any discomfort, or an unusual sensation may indicate you have already been burned or are about to be burned. Be constantly aware and alert to the possibility of exposure to heat and other hazards, exercising caution at all times.

**Barrier Protection:** Your hood, depending on the model selected, may or may not be equipped with a barrier material. Your protective hood will not provide protection from liquid exposure to your head, face, and neck area – and therefore will not protect you from chemical, radiological, or biological hazards which can cause death, injuries, diseases, and/or illnesses. Water and other liquids may enter openings in the interfaces between the hood and other ensemble elements. Furthermore, your hood does not offer any protection from hazardous vapors or gases, liquefied gases, or cryogenic liquids.

**Additional Hazards:** Your protective hood – even if properly maintained, clean, and dry - may not protect you from electrical shock. Wet, dirty, and/or contaminated hoods may increase your risk of death, burns, or injuries. Your protective hood will not protect you from all physical hazards. Your protective hood may be penetrated, cut, or torn by sharp surfaces or objects. Do not use your protective hood if contaminated, cut, punctured, worn, abraded, or altered from its original condition.

**Complete Ensemble:** This hood is effective only when properly worn, accounting for a proper interface with your garment, helmet, and SCBA facepiece. This hood is part of a complete ensemble that includes appropriate elements for your overall protection, and is consistent with your organization/departments hazard and risk assessment.

**Care and Maintenance:** This hood must be properly inspected, maintained, cleaned, stored, and cared for by your department, organization, or employer consistent with these instructions and applicable national, state/provincial, and local regulations. Any soiling, contamination, damage, and any alteration that would compromise the integrity and protection that this hood provides, will warrant its disposal.

**Warranty:** This hood is NOT warranted to be fit for a particular purpose. Read carefully the WARRANTY information at the end of this guide. If the product label in the hood is missing or becomes unreadable, contact MFA, Inc. for further instructions (which may include retiring hood from service).

**Alterations / Modifications:** DO NOT attempt to alter or modify your hood. Hoods should not be altered to accommodate after market accessories. Any aftermarket alteration, modification or addition will VOID the WARRANTY and will impact the UL Certification of compliance with the current NFPA standard. The only modification permitted is the **Marking Recommendation** below:

**Marking Recommendation** – If permitted by your department or organization, for identification purposes, you may mark your protective hood. Mark your hood in areas that are not exposed during normal wearing. If you mark the product label (sewn into hood), do not write over or obscure information on the product label. When marking, use an indelible marker.

**Sizing** - All Majestic Fire Apparel protective hoods are offered in a single UNIVERSAL size unless custom made. Follow the donning instructions provided in the next section to ensure correct wearing of your protective hood.

**Design and Performance Requirements** – Representative samples of your protective hood have been evaluated for a number of design and performance requirements as set forth in NFPA 1971, current edition. Such test requirements include hood dimensions, flame resistance, face opening size retention, thermal protective performance, heat and thermal shrinkage resistance, thread melting, label durability, material burst strength, seam burst strength, and cleaning shrinkage. These performance requirements/properties cannot be evaluated in the field, so if you have questions, check with your department or organization, which in turn can contact MFA, Inc.

## INSPECTIONS

Your department or organization should have a compliant, systematic, routine, and regularly scheduled inspections of your protective hood. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept. Inspect your hood prior to its first use and following every use.

**Before First Use Inspection** - Prior to using the hood for the first time, ensure that the hood does not have any construction flaws or was damaged when being put into service.

**Routine Inspections** - Following every use, inspect your protective hood for:

- \* soiling and/or contamination,
- \* physical damage such as, but not limited to, rips, holes, tears, frays, or cuts,
- \* thermal damage such as, but not limited to, charring, burn holes, melting, and discoloration of any layer,
- \* compromise in seams and/or stitches – ensuring there are no broken or missing stitches (thread),

- \* elastic face opening - assess whether the face opening is still elastic and has not become overextended. The face opening of your protective hood must fit securely around your SCBA facepiece each time you wear it,
- \* label legibility – labels should not be removed, and information/markings should be legible
- \* questionable appearance or characteristics .

Upon inspection, if any of the above conditions exist, without delay alert the supervisor of your department or organization, and request a determination on the continued serviceability of your protective hood. Considering the cost of a new protective hood, repair is generally not practical or recommended.

**Advanced Inspections** – Your protective hood must be subjected to a more thorough inspection at least every 12 months, after every advanced cleaning, or whenever there is a concern about its condition for continued service. This inspection must be carried out by an individual with your department or organization who has been trained in advanced inspections or by a qualified and accepted independent service provider. Full written documentation of these inspections should be kept.

## WEARING INSTRUCTIONS

**Donning** – Use the following steps for putting on your hood:

1. Place your protective hood over your head with the face opening over your face. Push your head through the face opening of the hood so that the hood is around your neck with the face opening forward.
2. Ensure that the bib portion of your protective hood lies flat on your upper body and is positioned so that it will remain under your protective garment when the collar is properly secured in accordance with the garment manufacturers instructions.
3. Put on the SCBA facepiece and adjust the straps for correct wearing in accordance with the SCBA manufacturer's instructions.
4. Pull the hood up and over the back of your head, covering the SCBA facepiece straps. Placing the chin portion of the hood first may make donning easier for some individuals.
5. Position the facepiece opening of your protective hood so that it covers all areas of your head and face not covered by the SCBA facepiece.
6. Put on and adjust your helmet according to the helmet manufacturer's instructions, ensuring that positioning the helmet does not create openings in the protective hood's coverage of your face and head.

**Interface Issues and Adjustments for Fit** – Your protective hood must fit properly and not interfere with other ensemble elements to ensure your proper protection. The hood should overlap all portions of your SCBA facepiece, but it should not obscure your vision through the SCBA facepiece visor. Your protective hood should not interfere with the SCBA facepiece to face seal. The additional material over your head will require that your protective helmet be adjusted accordingly to remain secure on your head. The bib portion of your protective hood must be tucked in underneath the collar and top of your protective garment so that the bib does not pull out during use. If your hood does not remain tucked in, without delay alert your supervisor that you may need a hood with a longer bib.

**Doffing** – Removing your hood procedure varies depending on whether or not your protective hood is CONTAMINATED:

**NO CONTAMINATION** – please use the following steps:

1. Remove your helmet first according to the helmet manufacturer's instructions.
2. Pull the face opening area of your protective hood away from your SCBA facepiece and down onto your neck, such that your head protrudes from the protective hood face opening.
3. Remove your SCBA facepiece according to the SCBA manufacturer's instructions.
4. Remove your protective hood from your head by gently pulling your hood over your head and out from under your protective garment.
5. Inspect your hood as indicated in the instructions above.
6. Clean and store your hood as indicated in these instructions.