

GLASGOW FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

GUIDELINE: GROOMING STANDARDS			SECTION: 127
WRITTEN 08/13/1990	REVIEWED	REVISED 7-27-2016	Page 57

INTENT

1. The purpose of this SOP is to prescribe a standard of grooming that will lend, in an appropriate manner, to the appearance and safety of the Glasgow Fire Department members. It shall set forth and establish guidelines and policies for the Fire Department in regards to grooming. This SOP shall govern all members of the Glasgow Fire Department. The following guidelines for hair standards are based on the use of personnel protective equipment including a hood and self-contained breathing apparatus face piece. For all firefighting personnel all hair must be concealed within the protective hood and PPE and still maintain proper fit of all other personnel protective equipment. The Hair shall be groomed and cleaned.
2. A neat and well-groomed appearance by firefighters is fundamental to the fire service and contributes to building the pride and spirit essential to an effective fire department. A vital ingredient of the department's effectiveness is the pride and self-discipline which fire fighters bring to his/her service. It is the responsibility of the officers to ensure that personnel under their supervision present a neat appearance at all times. It must be recognized that maintenance of proper public image, personnel safety and use of protective equipment, dictates that certain restrictions be placed on member's hair and mustaches, and members are required to accept these restrictions as a job requirement.

STANDARDS

1. There are many hair styles that are acceptable in the fire department. The bulk or length of hair must not interfere with the normal wearing of a standard uniform cap or helmet or Self-contained Breathing Apparatus. So long as a member's hair is kept in a neat manner, the acceptability of the style shall be judged by the criteria described.

MEN:

- a. Hair styles including length shall be neat, clean, and conservatively groomed and must never be of such bulk or length that it will jeopardize the personal safety of the fire fighter in the performance of firefighting or other emergency operations. For safety reasons, particular emphasis must be placed on secure and snug fit for all Fire Department Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and protective equipment so that maximum protection may be afforded.
- b. Members may wear their hair compacted not to exceed two inches in depth on both sides and on top, and length of the hair shall not hinder the proper fit of Fire Department head gear.

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- c. Side burns may not exceed past the lobe of the ear, with a maximum width at the base of one inch.
- d. Mustaches shall be groomed and clean. Mustaches shall not extend below the corner of the mouth and shall extend downward below the lower lip.
- e. No other facial hair shall be permitted.

WOMEN:

- a. Hair styles including length shall be neat, clean, and conservatively groomed. Traditional and acceptable standards for female hairstyles differ considerably from those of males. The Hair must never be of such bulk that it will jeopardize the personal safety of the fire fighter in the performance of firefighting or other emergency operations. For safety reasons, particular emphasis must be placed on secure and snug fit for all Fire Department Self-contained Breathing Apparatus and personal protective equipment so that maximum protection may be afforded.
 - b. Members may wear their hair compacted not to exceed two inches in depth on both sides and on top, and length of the hair shall not hinder the proper fit of Fire Department head gear.
2. The wearing of wrist watches is permitted if the configuration of the watch will not interfere with the use of gloves, turnouts, and is not subject to catching or snagging due to it being loose on the wrist. The wearing of rings is permitted if the configuration is not overly large or ornate and will not subject the individual to potential injury. Rings which interfere with quick donning or gloves shall not be permitted.

ENFORCMENT:

- 1. In the event a member is judged by his/her officer to be in violation of these of these grooming regulations, the officer shall notify the next in command. No further action will be taken at this time. The next in command (if applicable) shall then notify the Chief's Office who will set a time for the member to appear at the Chief's Office. If the member is judged to be in violation, the member shall be ordered to comply with the grooming regulations by the next tour of duty and cautioned against future violations.