

**Bureau of Labor
Standards**

Memo

To: Maine Fire Chiefs and Other Interested Parties

From: Steve Greeley, Director of Workplace Safety & Health

cc: Mike Roland, Bureau Director and the Board of Occupational Safety & Health

Date: July 29, 2021

Re: An Act to ensure the provisions of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to firefighters

The Maine Department of Labor, Workplace Safety & Health Division enforces by State Statute, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations in state and local government worksites.

OSHA General Industry Standard 29 CFR 1910.132 requires employers to evaluate their workplace for hazards that necessitate the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), have affected employees use PPE, select PPE that properly fits each affected employee and train employees on the use of PPE.

The Maine State Legislature recently enacted an Act to Ensure the Provision of Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to Firefighters. This emergency legislation further augments OSHA's required PPE requirement and becomes effective immediately.

The Maine Department of Labor has been directed to convey the requirements of this Act and the commercial availability of firefighting protective equipment appropriately sized for firefighters who are female to all municipal fire departments, volunteer fire departments and associations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 207-623-7900.

Steven L. Greeley, Director