



Safety Message of the Day for IMEA Members



Safety Message: When to Replace Your FR Clothing

Flame-resistant (FR) clothing is a critical part of your personal protective equipment. But like any gear, it doesn't last forever. Knowing when to replace it is essential for your safety. Here are key signs it's time to retire your FR uniform:

- Thin or Worn Areas

If the fabric is thinning, has visible wear, or shows abrasions, its flame-resistant properties have likely been compromised. Worn fabric can no longer provide proper protection.

- Rips, Tears, or Holes

Damage like holes or tears means your skin is exposed. Even small gaps remove the protective barrier, allowing flames or heat to reach you directly.

- Excessive Alterations

FR clothing that has been significantly cut and resealed—especially in high-stress or heat-exposed areas—may no longer offer the protection it was designed for.

- Poor Fit or Deformation

If the uniform has become baggy, misshapen, or no longer fits properly, it may shift during use, exposing areas of your body and reducing its protective effectiveness.

- Bleach Exposure

FR garments that have come into contact with bleach—either on the job or during washing—should be replaced immediately. Bleach can break down the flame-resistant properties of the fabric.

- Permanent Contamination

If a uniform still smells of chemicals, has greasy stains, or is visibly contaminated even after cleaning, it should be replaced. Contaminants can reduce flame resistance and pose additional hazards.

Remember: FR clothing is only effective if it's in good condition. When in doubt, err on the side of caution—your safety depends on it.