

Health Response Team Uniform

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Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Incident management
Clinical/ Patient Services - Medical Treatment
Population Health - Disaster management
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Summary Under NSW HEALTHPLAN, Health Response Team/s (HRT) may be mobilised to provide a range of health and medical support to a major incident or disaster site under the direction of the State Health Services Functional Coordinator (State HSFAC). As HRTs represent NSW Health, they must wear a uniform as specified in this Policy Directive, in order to clearly identify the team to other emergency management organisations at the site, and comply with all relevant Australian standards.

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Public Health Units

Audience Area Health Services, staff deployed as part of Health Response Team in a disaster or major incident

Distributed to Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service

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Status Active

Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

HEALTH RESPONSE TEAM UNIFORM

PURPOSE

This policy provides the standard and procedures for Area Health Services and Public Hospitals on the Health Response Team uniform and its maintenance.

Under NSW HEALTHPLAN, Health Response Team/s (HRT) may be mobilised to provide a range of health and medical support to a major incident or disaster site under the direction of the State Health Services Functional Coordinator (State HSFAC).

As HRTs represent NSW Health, their uniform not only provides comfort and safety to the members but clearly identifies each team member to other emergency management organisations at the site.

Currently Area Health Services HRT uniforms are generally similar and vary in style, material and colour. This may cause confusion for other agencies and potential safety issues for health staff if not based on approved Australian and New Zealand Standards.

This policy has been prepared in consultation with Area HSFACs, the Medical Controller and the Strategic Procurement and Business Development Unit at the Department of Health.

MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

This policy sets parameters for all NSW Health personnel working in HRTs or personnel that are responsible for the maintenance, management and storing of the uniform for the HRT.

The policy comprises an annex to the NSW Health Medical Services Supporting Plan.

Health Response Team Uniform

A complete HRT Uniform (Attire) includes:

- Safety Helmet
- Broad-brimmed Hat
- High Visible Garments (Jacket and Trousers)
- Inner Clothes (T-Shirt)
- Safety Vest (Tabard)
- Safety Boots
- Wet Weather Gear

Other personal safety devices such as goggles, sun screen and gloves are provided in the personal comfort pack as part of the HRT Medical Equipment Kit.

Uniform Maintenance and Reporting

HRT uniform is to be maintained by the Area Health Services with regular airing, and fully checked at least annually and prior to major exercises involving the HRT deployment or on call.

A uniform audit report (as part of the equipment audit) is to be submitted to NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit annually under the Chief Executive Disaster Preparedness Service Agreement.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is to be implemented by Area Health Services and phased over financial years 2008 to 2011 and with all existing uniforms replaced by 2011.

Roles and Responsibilities

Area Health Services

Under the Disaster Preparedness Service Agreement, the Area Health Services are responsible for disaster preparedness and planning. The HRT uniform falls within this responsibility.

The NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit

The NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit will be responsible for the development and update of this policy.

This policy is to be reviewed every 3 years or if any request is made to NSW Health Counter Disaster Unit following an incident or disaster operation, or when a change occurs to a relevant standard.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved by	Amendment notes
July 2009 (PD2009_048)	Director-General	New Policy

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. Health Response Team Uniform Annexure – Equipment Details

**NSW Health Response Team Uniform Annexure –
Equipment Details**

NSW HEALTH
PROCEDURES

Issue date: July-2009

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1 Safety Helmet

All HRT members are required to wear a safety helmet (Type 1) at any outdoor operation site where there is a risk of head injury from objects falling from above, and/or from striking or contacting overhead structures.

1.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1997) AS/NZS1801:1997 Occupational protective helmets - Type 1

1.2 General Design

Helmets are intended for use in outdoor operations where the HRT are deployed. It should protect the wearer from objects falling from above, and/or from striking or contacting overhead structures.

Accessories should be fitted to helmets to make them suitable for variable working conditions. These accessories include:

- Harness: headband, cradle (fixed or adjustable), cushioning, retaining chin and nape strap, sweat band;
- Safety labels with information such as expiry date, replacement instruction
- The word “NSW Health” is to be printed at the front of helmet
- A medical Green Cross Sign “+” is to be printed at both sides of the helmet
- The helmet should be **white** in colour and of light weight design

1.3 Material Construction

The helmet shell should be made of lightweight and suitable material.

1.4 Maintenance

Care instructions should be included with each helmet. The shell should be cleaned regularly.

Before using the helmet, HRT members should check for any dents, cracks, penetrations, damage and unauthorised alterations. Helmets showing any damage to the shell are to be withdrawn from use and destroyed.

Helmet and sweat-bands should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer’s instruction.

1.5 Supplier

To ensure the standardisation of the HRT uniform across the Area Health Services, the contracted supplier (under government contract) for safety helmet is Down Under Safety Company. Refer to section 8 for costing



Vented Helmet: Photo source: Down Under Safety Company

2 Broad-brimmed hat

HRT members have the potential risk of exposure to ultraviolet radiation through sunlight. Wherever practicable, members should be physically shielded from artificial UV sources. As part of personal protection, a broad-brimmed hat can provide sunlight shield protection to the scalp and neck.

2.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1994): SAA HB9 – 1994 Handbook: Occupational personal protection (Chapter 2, Section Non-ionizing Radiation, and Heating: Ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

2.2 Supplier

Under the government contract, the contracted supplier for broad-brimmed hat is Down Under Safety Company. Refer to section 8 for costing.



RP15 Bottle Green

Photo source: Down Under Safety Company

3 High Visibility Garments (Jacket and Trousers)

All HRT members are required to wear high visibility garments at all times during their field deployment.

3.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1999) 4062 High visibility safety garments

- Standard Australia (1999) 1906.4:1997 Retroreflective material and devices for road traffic control purpose – High visibility materials for safety garments

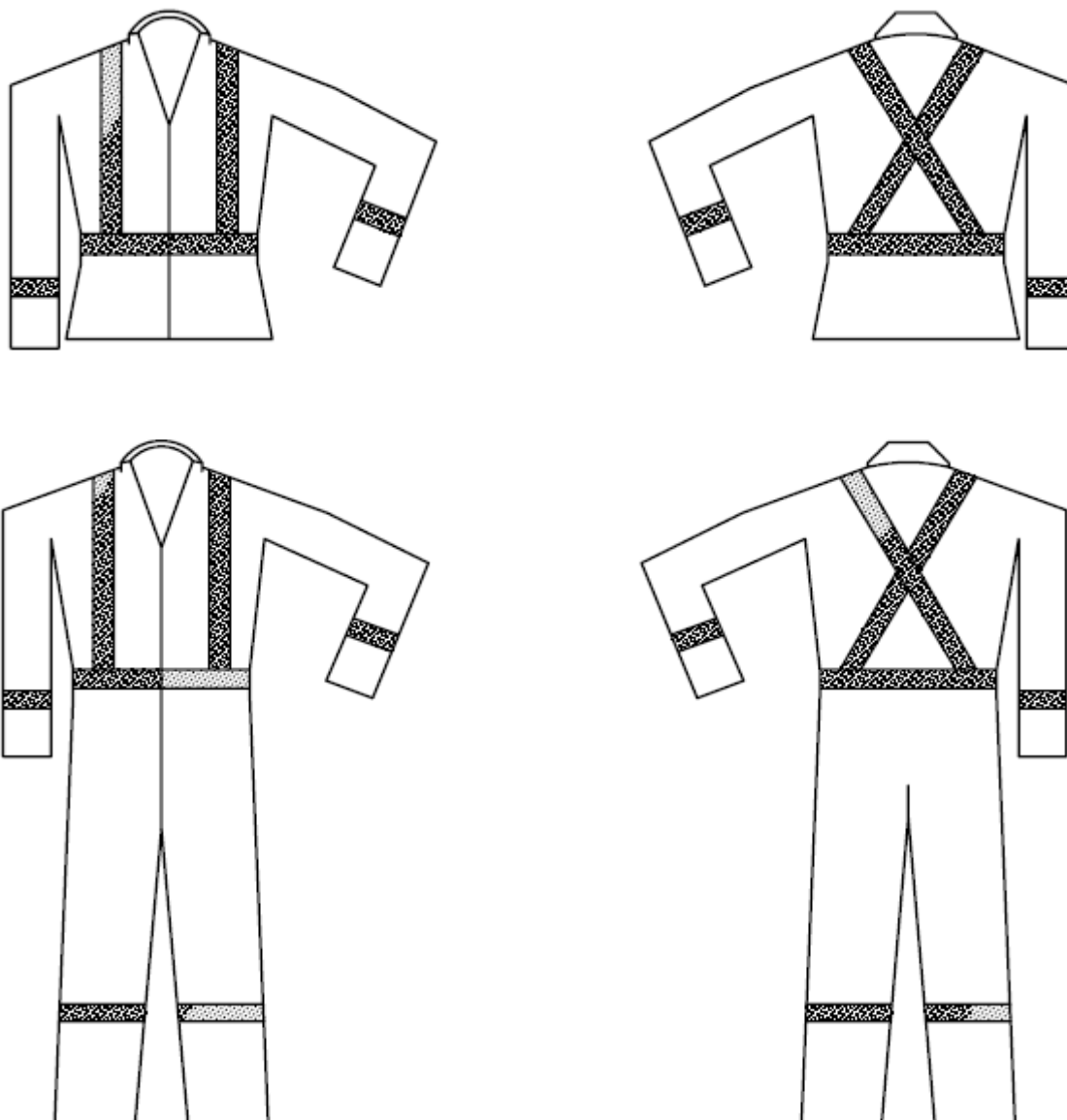
3.2 General Design

Classification: Class D/N – both jacket and trousers should be designed for both day and night use, comprising retroreflective elements on a fluorescent or other non-retroreflective high visibility background material.

Jacket: The jacket is a unisex garment. The garment should be colourfast, quick drying and lightweight with good stretch and recovery characteristics.

Trousers: Design should allow easy access to conveniently placed pockets which will benefit staff as they carry out their duties in changing environments.

Strip: Strips of retroreflective material should be applied as specified, especially a strip over each shoulder of minimum length 400mm, plus a complete horizontal hoop at approximately waist level with vertical strips and horizontal hoops as shown in the following pictures.



Reference source: AS/NZS 4602:1999 page 7

Colour: Green is used to identify Health at emergency and mass casualty incidents. The correct green with the approved supplier [Mastakraft Clothing Company, South Australia], is Ambo Green (see the following photo for a colour reference).



Photo source: Mastakraft Clothing Company

3.3 Material Construction

Both jacket and trousers will be made with polyester and cotton material.

Fabric should be anti-pilling, durable, colourfast, quick drying, lightweight and exhibit good stretch and recovery characteristics.

The fabric should achieve stain release, be non-fade and crease resistant. All seams should be double stitched, with darts from back waistline.

3.4 Maintenance

Care Instructions (Refer AS 1957) should be included on a secondary information label and detail the composition of the fabric. This label shall be brightly printed in indelible print.

The jacket and trousers should be machine washable, tumble dry, dry clean and warm iron.

3.5 Supplier

There is no existing health tender arrangement for the Medical Response Team Clothing [Jacket and Trousers].

The current supplier for the HRT clothing [jacket and trousers] is Mastakraft Clothing Company in South Australia. For costing see section 8.

4 Inner Clothes (T-Shirt)

The team members should wear 100% cotton inner clothing (round neck white T-shirt with short sleeves) to provide comfort and a spare T-shirt should also be included in the Compact Pack of the HRT Medical Equipment Kit.

4.1 Supplier

The contracted supplier is Down Under Safety Company. For costing see section 8.



T6145 T-Shirt White

Photo source: Down Under Safety Company

5 Safety Vest (Tabard)

5.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1999) 4062 High visibility safety garments
- Standard Australia (1999) 1906.4:1997 Retroreflective material and devices for road traffic control purpose – High visibility materials for safety garments
- Colour to meet AS/NZS 1906 Page 4: 1997 (Table 2.3). Refer section D1. Safety Vest Specification Overview for colour.

5.2 General Design

A day/night garment intended to provide the wearer with high visibility and identification under both daylight and night-time viewing.

The words “NSW Health” are printed on both front and back of the safety vest.

5.3 Identification – Position Holder Label

The wording of the position holder label on the safety vests is to be standardised across all Area Health Services.

Position holder labelling will be visible via pocket/transparent information panel on the safety vest. This will allow the tabard to be interchangeable depending upon the role of the wearer.

The position holder labels include:

- Health Commander and Deputy Health Commander
- Medical Commander and Deputy Medical Commander
- Team Leader
- Doctor
- Nurse
- Triage

5.4 Material Construction

The garment shall be made to meet Australian Standards in fabric, retro reflective striping and sizing, able to withstand normal wear and tear, and be washable.

5.5 Maintenance

Care Instructions for the garment are to be followed in accordance with the Manufacturer's cleaning instructions.

5.6 Supplier

The contracted supplier for safety vest is Carry Code. For costing see section 8.



Front view



Back view

6 Safety Footwear

Selection and use of effective footwear can help to prevent injuries commonly associated with slips and falls. These include ankle, knee and back injuries from body-stressing forces and traumatic injuries to other parts of the body.

Protective footwear is to be worn to stabilise the ankle joints and improve support to legs and knees. This improves the wearers' stability and is particularly useful when working on unstable ground or where medical treatments and procedures are performed in an outdoor environment. The safety footwear should be 100% water resistant.

6.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1994) 2210.1 Occupational protective footwear Part 1: Guide to selection, care and use
- Standard Australia (1994) 2210.5 Occupational protective footwear without toecaps

6.2 General Design

Footwear shall be made of high quality materials and meet functional criteria including:

- Dissipate perspiration and maintain a comfortable internal temperature
- Perform duties without restrictions
- Provide comfort and support

- Maintain original shape
- Provide optimum levels of safety
- Made with shock absorbing soling material
- Weight should not cause fatigue
- Easy to put on and remove

6.3 Material Construction

- The boots must be 100% waterproof
- Stitching and seams must be sealed and waterproof
- Boots licensed and accredited to the Occupational Footwear requirement AS/NZS 2210.5 are designed for environments that do not require safety toecaps.

6.4 Maintenance

Care instructions for the safety boots should be included with each pair of boots. The safety boots should be cleaned regularly.

To ensure the Occupational Health and Safety of the staff, it is recommended that the safety footwear (boots) be purchased by the targeted trained HRT member through the relevant clothing allowance or as a work related expenses claim under a tax return.

6.5 Supplier

It is recommended that HRT members purchase their safety footwear to ensure appropriate sizing, comfort and to meet OH&S requirement for personal hygiene. The purchase expense could then be claimed through Area Health Services Clothing Allowance or Tax Return.

The suppliers for safety footwear are J Blackwood and Son Limited and Down Under Safety Company. Both contracted companies have a wide range of safety boots style and models for Area Health Services or individual members to choose the appropriate and comfortable style. For suppliers' information sees section 8.



Mack Flinders Boot
Photo source: Down Under Safety Company



AT's Lace Up 200mm Boot, Water Resistant Leather
Photo source: J Blackwood and Son Limited

7 Wet Weather Gear

7.1 Compliance

- Standard Australia (1999) 4062 High visibility safety garments

- Standard Australia (1999) 1906.4:1997 Retro reflective material and devices for road traffic control purpose – High visibility materials for safety garments

7.2 General Design

A set comprises a jacket and a pair of trousers. The fabric and seams must provide protection from precipitation and wind and be functional in both an average to alpine winter environment, and heat and humidity associated with summer rainstorms.

The wet weather gear should be water-proof and anti-static. In addition, the trousers should have elasticised waist and patch pockets.

7.3 Material Construction

Material specifications must comply with rigorous compliance test standards.

The fabric material should contain carbon fire grid woven to contain and discharge electrostatic charges before build up can occur.

The fabric and seams of the garment must not degrade through storage or laundering and must be resistant to common contaminants from automotive fuels and oils to cosmetics and sunscreen. The fabric must prevent liquids such as battery acid and blood from penetrating through to the wearer.

Reflective strips should be added to both jacket and trousers as the following photo reference.



Front



Back



Over pants

Photo source: Down Under Safety Company

7.4 Maintenance

The jacket and trousers should be capable of being washed in a domestic appliance and the fabric, seams and fittings should also be suitable for dry-cleaning/industrial laundering if the garment is heavily contaminated.

7.5 Supplier

To ensure the standardisation of the HRT uniform across Area Health Services, the contracted supplier (under government contract) for wet weather gear is Down Under Safety Company. For costing see section 8.

8 Summary of Suppliers and Costing

Item	Government Contracted Supplier Contract No. 500	Product Code	Quote as of 4 Aug 2008 (GST excl.)	Non-Contract Supplier	Product Code	Quote as of 4 Aug 2008 (GST excl.)
Hard Hat (Type 1)	Downunder Safety	TA570 - White Hard Hat (vented) with pad print Label: NSW Health (front) Label: Green "+" (both sides)	\$13.8 with initial set up cost 123.00 (company is willing to waive the printing set-up cost)			
		TA175 (Chin Straps)	\$2.40			
Broad Brimmed Hat	J Blackwood and Son Limited	04313978 (M)	\$4.25			
		04313944 (L)	\$4.25			
	Downunder Safety	RP15 (Broad brim slouch hat with UV protection)	\$4.95			
High Visibility Garment (Jacket & Trousers)	Not Available			Mastakraft Clothing Company (South Australia)	N/A	Shirts \$83.90 Trousers \$72.90 freight charges is not included
Inner Clothes (T-Shirt)	Downunder Safety	T6145 100% cotton t-shirt White	\$4.95			
Safety Vest (F/Yellow reflective tabard)	Not Available			Carry Code	30046002000 (F/Yellow Reflective Tabard)	\$55.00
					Small badge with reflective wording, Fluoro yellow \$9.00+GST	\$9.00
					Large badge with reflective wording, Fluoro yellow \$12.00+GST	\$12.00
Safety Boot	J Blackwood and Son Limited	A large range of styles and models on safety boots				
	Downunder Safety	Mack Flinders Boot (100% water resistant lace up boot)	\$105.00			
Wet Weather Gear (Jacket and Trousers)	Downunder Safety	DU8257 (Monsoon Set) -size S-XL (with reflective strip over the shoulders)	81.55 (for both jacket & trousers)			