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CANADIAN POLICE RESEARCH CENTRE



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CENTRE CANADIEN DE RECHERCHES POLICIERES

TM-05-95E OFFICER PROTECTION KITS

By: Brian Yamashita

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Submitted by
RCMP Forensic Identification
Research & Review Section

September, 1994

NOTE: Further information
about this report can be
obtained by calling the
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dr. Brian Yamashita of the RCMP Forensic Identification Research & Review Section conducted an evaluation of an officer protection kit manufactured by Safety Supply Canada. These kits were developed as a result of concern for the health and safety of individuals working in contaminated environments. The manufacturer claims that the suits provide optimum protection against liquids, dirt, most chemicals, particulates and even micro-organisms normally found on the body. The kit is intended for single use only. A bag is provided with the kit for disposal once it has served its purpose.

The protective garments were evaluated by Forensic Identification Specialists across Canada. Favourable comments were received concerning the breathing and durability of the fabric, the fit, and the presence of several pockets. Overall, a majority of the evaluators were satisfied.

It should be noted that although only one company's product was evaluated, these type of protective garments may be available from other companies as well.

This Technical Memorandum can be read in conjunction with TM-13-94 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING FOR HAZARDOUS SPILLS which is available on request by faxing the Canadian Police Research Centre at (613) 952-0156.

These protective suits were evaluated by Forensic Identification personnel within the R.C.M. Police at eleven locations in Canada; Moncton, Bathurst, Fredericton, Halifax, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Edmonton, Burnaby, Surrey, Richmond and Vancouver.

Most comments were favourable in terms of the fabric breathability, durability, fit and the numerous pockets.

A number of suggestions on how to improve the suit were made; these include enlarging the pockets, add another pocket to one of the legs, include more elastics to ensure a snugger fit, and make the hood smaller so that it does not impair vision. Additionally, it was suggested that the suit be made available in a variety of colours as opposed to just white.

As can be expected, some complaints surfaced as well. These consisted of the suit being too warm and too large. Additionally, it was determined that the boot covers wore through too quickly. It was suggested extra boot covers and gloves be provided in the kit.

All in all, the availability of this product moves one step closer to protecting the police officer at the scene.

Officer Protection Kits

New officer protection kits for use at major scenes have been developed by Safety Supply Canada. These have been field tested, and can now be approved for use at crime scenes. The kit consists of a new “breathable” bunny suit with three snap-fastened pockets, two pairs of gloves, disinfectant wipes, and a disposal bag with tie. Boot covers and extra gloves should be ordered separately. Disposable masks are not included in this kit; most Identification Specialists have their own dust masks or respirators, and it was felt that the disposable masks were not being used. The bunny suits are large, so some members may require extra ties or elastics to ensure a reasonably snug fit.

Ordering information:

(Safety Supply Canada -- 1-800-263-3550.)

| <u>Product no.</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|--|--------------|
| <u>O.P. Kit:</u> ZZN RCMP kit | \$12.94 each |
| <u>Boot covers:</u> KMB 36880 for a case of 300 | \$139.25 |
| <u>“Best” nitrile gloves:</u> BEM 7005XL for a box of 100 | \$15.28 |

OFFICER PROTECTION KIT

A PERSONNEL PROTECTION KIT FROM SAFETY SUPPLY CANADA

Concern for the health and safety of individuals working in contaminated environments has resulted in Safety Supply Canada's Officer Protection Kit. The contents of this disposable package are carefully tailored to provide optimum protection against liquids, dirt, most chemicals, particulates and even micro-organisms normally found on the body.

*****NOTE:** This product is intended for single use. **DO NOT RE-USE!!!** While this kit will protect you from common biohazards encountered during normal usage, it cannot provide total protection! Adopt safe practices!

CONTENTS:

- *A zippered one-piece jumpsuit with attached boots and hood for complete coverage (X-kg)
- *A 3 mil disposal bag with twist tie, 14" x 20"
- *One pair of blue nitrile gloves
- *One pair of heavy rubber gloves
- *"Wipe-Out" disinfectant towelettes

**Another Quality Product from
Safety Supply Canada**

HOW TO USE THE OFFICER PROTECTION KIT

Open package and remove contents. Step into coverall, arrange hood for best visibility and zip. Disposable boot covers, if available, can be worn over feet of coverall.

Apply nitrile gloves, pulling cuff over sleeve of coverall. For extra protection, use latex or rubber gloves over nitrile gloves. Latex gloves can be discarded and replaced if they become soiled or torn.

When removing clothing, follow these procedures:

Open disposal bag. Remove boot covers and coverall. To avoid contact with contaminants, remove gloves last. Remove one downwards until half the hand is still covered. Then roll the other glove off completely. With the bare hand, complete removal of the first glove, the inside of which remains safe to grasp and pull. Insert all items in disposal bag and close with supplied twist tie. Wipe hands with disinfectant towelettes.