

NATIONAL PERSONAL PROTECTIVE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY APPROPRIATIONS

The NPPTL plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders.

Background

The NPPTL conducts research on PPE effectiveness and innovation, develops best practices and recommendations for PPE, and creates guidance and tools to help employers use PPE to its full potential.

The NPPTL is particularly known for its work with respirators, including testing and approving respirators used in U.S. workplaces to ensure that respirators used by Americans provide the expected level of protection.

This is critical to firefighters and EMS personnel, who rely on respiratory protection in the course of their everyday work responding to fires, hazardous material emergencies, medical calls, and much more.

Ask

► Provide the appropriate funding and staff to ensure that NPPTL can continue to conduct research, testing, and certification of firefighter protective equipment to ensure safety and reliability.

Talking Points

► **A National Authority on PPE Safety**

The NPPTL is a specialized division of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

► **Critical for Firefighter Respiratory Protection**

The NPPTL certifies respirators such as self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), which are essential for firefighters operating in hazardous environments. This certification ensures equipment performs under extreme conditions and provides trusted protection against toxic exposures.

► **Research that Improves Firefighter Health**

The laboratory conducts research on hazards commonly faced by firefighters, including carcinogens, particulates, and contaminated gear. The NPPTL's work improves PPE design, decontamination practices, and overall strategies to reduce both immediate and long-term health risks.

