



Risk Management – Workplace Safety

MARIJUANA GROW OPERATIONS ENTRY - SAFE PRACTICES

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

This document is intended to provide guidance to employees who must enter either a residential or commercial marijuana facility to perform official city business. Be aware that conditions in these facilities will vary widely. Each employee should take care to assess the circumstances before deciding which level of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is appropriate.

PPE	PURPOSE (and other information)
Long sleeve shirts or jackets Long pants	Protect from dermal exposure Wash separately from regular laundry pre manufacturer’s recommendation
Closed-toed shoes	Protect from dermal exposure and injury on walking surfaces Wash soles with soap and water or wear footwear covers
ANSI-approved 99.9% UV protection safety eyewear	Protect eyes from damaging UV exposure in grow or other facilities Eye protection; Reusable, decontaminate with soap and water
Chemical resistant disposable coverall or lab coat	Protect from dermal exposure; preserve clothing
Chemical resistant disposable gloves	Protect from dermal exposure; preserve clothing
Disposable Foot wear covers	Preserve footwear
Half-face mask respirator	Protection from inhalation hazards; Re-usable, follow manufacturer’s recommendation for respirator use and maintenance
P100 Filters	Filters at least 99.97% of airborne particles; strongly resistant to oil; filters <u>may not</u> be re-used
NIOSH-approved Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)	Protection from inhalation hazards; Re-usable, follow manufacturer’s recommendations for respirator use and maintenance
Knee pads, Waterproof rubber boots with steel toes, Hard Hat, Work Gloves	General duty PPE

Important: *Respirators do not protect the user from oxygen deficient atmospheres* such as those found in rooms where carbon dioxide is used.

All disposable PPE should be bagged and left at the home and facility for disposal. DO NOT bring disposable PPE back to your duty station. Transporting used PPE may result in transporting contamination.

PPE should be selected based upon Level of Engagement, or the work to be done. Table 1 presents the PPE necessary for each Level of Engagement or work to be done at a marijuana facility.



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TABLE 1

Level of Engagement		Personal Protective Equipment
INSPECTION	Required	Long sleeved shirts or jackets Long pants Closed-toed, non-slip shoes ANSI-approved 99.9% UV protection safety eyewear
	Recommended	Chemical resistant disposable coverall or lab coat Chemical resistant disposable gloves Disposable Footwear covers
	Optional	Half-face mask respirator with P100 filter*
NON-FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE	Required	Long sleeves & pants (if your standard uniform meets these requirements it will suffice, otherwise you will need to put on coveralls prior to entering the facility) Closed-toed, non-slip shoes/boots ANSI-approved safety glasses with 99.9 %UV protection
	Optional	4-gas meter Foot wear covers Chemical-proof disposable or washable gloves NIOSH approved P100 disposable respirator is recommended for prolonged exposure to molds, pesticides.
EMERGENCY / FIRST RESPONDERS	Required	Standard Uniform or bunker gear ANSI-approved 99.9% UV protection safety eyewear
	Recommended	Chemical resistant disposable coverall or lab coat Chemical resistant disposable gloves Bunker gear
	Optional	Half-face mask respirator with P100 filter* Disposable Foot wear covers
RESPONDING PATROL OFFICERS	Required	Standard Uniform ANSI-approved 99.9% UV protection safety eyewear
	Recommended	Chemical resistant disposable coverall or lab coat Chemical resistant disposable gloves
	Optional	Half-face mask respirator with P100 filter* Disposable Foot wear covers
SEIZURE or DESTRUCTION OF PLANTS	Required	Chemical resistant disposable coverall or lab coat Chemical resistant disposable gloves ANSI-approved 99.9% UV protection safety eyewear NIOSH-approved Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)* OR Half-face mask respirator with P100 filter* Closed-toed, non-slip shoes/boots



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		Disposable Foot wear covers
	Optional	Knee pads Waterproof and chemical resistant rubber boots with safety toes Hard Hat Work Gloves

* Important: *Respirators do not protect the user from oxygen deficient atmospheres* such as those found in rooms where carbon dioxide is used.



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Potential Hazards

Potential hazards may include:

- Inhalation/Respiratory Hazards – aerosols, emissions, airborne particulates
- Contact/Dermal Hazards – residues on surfaces, such as, sulfur or pesticides
- Poor or unpermitted building construction are generally unsafe and can cause fires or tripping hazards
- Electrical power required at the facilities may lead to an increased risk of fire
- Emergency equipment such as fire extinguishers, eyewashes, and emergency lighting may be difficult to access or are non-existent
- Carbon dioxide, CO₂, enrichment will create an oxygen deficient atmosphere in the facility; an oxygen meter is recommended for use in these areas
- Hoses, water, and obstructions combined with tight areas for egress may create slip and fall risks
- Improperly stored chemicals may spill creating contact, inhalation, and walking surface hazards

Recommended Inspections Protocol

If possible, all inspectors should follow the steps below to decrease the risk associated with entering a marijuana cultivation facility:

- Wear properly selected PPE including, at minimum, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and close-toed, non-slip shoes. Long hair should be tied back or protected to avoid exposure to unknown chemicals.
- Request access to pesticide logs and SDS documentation
- Request chemical application times and re-entry periods
- Locate chemicals and assess the risk of recent pesticide use in the area
 - Look for sulfur burn pots – do not enter the area
 - Look for evidence of dust, fog, or mists
 - Look for evidence that the plants have been treated (i.e. wet/dripping plants) – enter the area with extreme caution, avoid touching wet plants or surfaces
 - Leave the area if there is a strong chemical or solvent smell
- Ask if carbon dioxide is being used in the facility and what areas should not be entered
- Be alert for tripping/slipping hazards such as puddles, hoses, grow racks, other obstructions, and uneven surfaces.
- Visually locate safety items such as signage, fire extinguishers, eye washes, and emergency exits
- When uncomfortable with the situation, leave the facility and call your supervisor or 911

Dispose of any disposable PPE that has come into contact with chemicals or plants *at the facility*. Bag and place PPE in the disposal receptacles at the facility. Remove any non-disposable outer wear that has come into contact with chemicals or plants at the facility and place in a large plastic bag. Launder clothing separately from



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regular laundry per manufacturer's recommendation. To decontaminate reusable PPE such as boots, gloves, etc., wash at the facility with warm water and soap, rinse thoroughly.

Recommended Patrol Officer Entry Protocol

Responding patrol officers MUST follow official police protocol. Below are suggested methods for safe entry.

- Prior to entering the facility, Don properly selected PPE including, at minimum, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and close-toed, non-slip shoes.
- Locate chemicals and assess the risk of recent pesticide use in the area
 - Look for sulfur burn pots – do not enter the area
 - Look for evidence of dust, fog, or mists – use caution when entering
 - Look for evidence that the plants have been treated (i.e. wet/dripping plants) – enter the area with extreme caution, avoid touching wet plants or surfaces
 - Leave the area if there is a strong chemical or solvent smell
- Look for compressed gas cylinders at the facility, marked and unmarked
- Be alert for tripping/slipping hazards such as booby traps, puddles, hoses, grow racks, and uneven surfaces.
- Heed all safety signage; use extreme caution when entering a room that has signage indicating an oxygen deficient atmosphere may be present

Dispose of any disposable PPE that has come into contact with chemicals or plants *at the facility*. Bag and place PPE in the disposal receptacles at the facility. Remove any non-disposable outer wear that has come into contact with chemicals or plants at the facility and place in a large plastic bag. Launder clothing separately from regular laundry per manufacturer's recommendation. To decontaminate reusable PPE such as boots, gloves, etc., wash at the facility with warm water and soap, rinse thoroughly.