

NFPA 1851 and FEMSA Recommendations for Gear Laundering

NFPA and FEMSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WASHER-EXTRACTORS

- NFPA and FEMSA recommend fire departments clean dirty gear as soon as possible after exposure to fire, body fluids or hazardous materials in order to preserve the protective qualities of gear. According to NFPA, soiled gear reflects less radiant heat and is more likely to ignite and conduct electricity.
Continental ExpressWash Washers make it easy for departments to clean gear after exposure.
- NFPA and FEMSA recommend fire departments clean dirty gear with a front loading washing machine. Top-loading washers may reduce the service life of protective garments due to damage caused by mechanical agitation.
Continental ExpressWash Washers are front loading washers.
- NFPA and FEMSA prohibits against cleaning gear in home or public laundries to prevent the spread of contamination.
Continental ExpressWash Washers enable fire departments to wash at fire station.
- NFPA recommends maximum water temperatures of 105 degrees Fahrenheit and maximum G-force of 100 G's.
Continental ExpressWash Washers are highly programmable. Water temperatures can be programmed by degree and G-force speeds are programmable to 100 G's for turnout gear. Higher G-force speeds (up to 387 G's) can be used for non-protective gear items like mop-heads and bedding to achieve maximum efficiency in the dryer.

NFPA and FEMSA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GEAR DRYERS

- NFPA (7.4.3) and FEMSA recommend a “no heat” option to be used when drying. Heat can cause damage to the protective garments including excessive shrinkage and can cause premature failure of protective garments.
Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers do not use heat to dry gear. The fan operates using ambient air—aligning with NFPA, FEMSA and gear manufacturer recommendations and making the dryer more energy efficient than cabinet style dryers, which require heated air.
- FEMSA recommends to avoid using a mechanical style tumble dryer since the dryer's mechanical action can degrade the equipment.
Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers do not use mechanical action to dry gear.
- According to NFPA, storage of wet or moist ensembles promotes growth of mildew and bacteria, which can lead to health concerns and weaken gear.
Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers use a large volume of air, at high pressure to thoroughly dry even hard-to-reach areas. This ensures that the gear is completely dry before storing—eliminating mildew and bacteria growth.
- FEMSA recommends forced ventilation air drying with proper air circulation
Continental ExpressDry Gear Dryers dry from the inside out using forced air for proper drying and ventilation to all areas of the garment.

Visit www.continentalgirbau.com/firedepartments
or call 800-256-103 to learn more about Continental's
full line of gear laundering equipment!

