

MSA Cairns® Fire Helmet Buying Guide: Why Cairns is the Right Choice for You



Your fire helmet should be manufactured with a safety-first approach and engineered to provide the highest level of protection. When choosing a Fire or Rescue helmet, it's important to understand and take into account all of the key features that a helmet should provide.

Does Your Current Helmet Meet All Of The Below Considerations?

Does the fire or rescue helmet meet the current NFPA Standards?

The NFPA sets standards including:

- **NFPA 1971:** Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting—establishes standards for all PPE, including structural fire helmets. Testing standard requirements include minimum levels of protection from thermal, physical, environmental, and bloodborne pathogen hazards encountered during structural and proximity firefighting operations.
- **NFPA 1951:** Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents – establishes the requirements for technical rescue gear for first responders, including Technical Rescue helmets.

Is the fire helmet tested by a third party to meet NFPA standards?

- Helmets are third-party tested by Intertek, the industry's preferred third-party lab.
- Helmets are certified as compliant to NFPA standards by SEI (Safety Equipment Institute).

Is the fire or rescue helmet designed for the hazardous environment you are working in?

- Different environments and functions require different helmet styles to perform specific tasks.
- From Traditional styles to Modern designs with a low profile for Technical Rescue and compact size for EMS, there is an MSA Cairns helmet to fit your environment and needs.

What kind of style is most comfortable to you?

From established firehouse favorites to next generation styles, there is a variety of options available to you. MSA Cairns offers them all, each designed with your safety in mind:

- **LEATHER:** Is your leather fire helmet handcrafted from 100% cowhide leather? All MSA Cairns Leather Fire Helmets are handmade and offer high quality appearance that generations of firefighters have trusted for decades.
- **JET-STYLE:** A Jet-Style helmet provides you with an innovative design and all-around safety. The brimless design reduces snag hazards while easy-to-find adjustments allow the fit to be personalized to the individual.
- **TRADITIONAL:** Traditional helmets provide a perfect combination of durability and performance. This style offers comprehensive impact and thermal head protection systems.
- **MODERN:** Modern helmets are versatile and durable to withstand various applications. They offer a sleek, low-profile design and provide thermal and impact protection, available in both thermoplastic and fiberglass outer-shells.

How long does the warranty last and what does it cover?

- Firefighting is an inherently dangerous occupation, so you need a durable and reliable fire helmet backed by manufacturers' claims.
- When you purchase an MSA Cairns Fire Helmet, not only do you receive a durable product, but also a 10-year lifetime warranty that the product will be free from defects in materials and/or faulty workmanship.

WHEN YOU GO IN, WE GO IN WITH YOU.

How easily can accessories be integrated into the helmet?

- Some fire helmets including Jet Style allow for integrated communications and lighting.
- Certified accessories can be easily and seamlessly integrated into all MSA Cairns Fire Helmets, including chinstrap options, soft goods, eye protection visors and goggles. And don't forget your customizable leather fronts.
- The MSA Cairns XF1 Jet-Style fire helmet accessories include communication kits, secondary (ocular) visors and lighting modules.

Does the helmet manufacturer not only offer removable soft goods, but also complete soft good kits?

- To meet the NFPA 1971, 2018 Standard, all fire helmets must now offer removable soft goods.
- MSA Cairns offers soft good kits with laundering bags for all fire helmets to assist in replacing worn or soiled soft goods after an incident.

Is the chinstrap easily removed and replaced without tools for cleaning?

- Beginning January 2, 2020, and to maintain alignment with [*cancer prevention directives recommended by the Firefighter Cancer Support Network \(FCSN\)*](#), MSA Cairns will offer removable, replaceable and washable chinstraps as a standard.
- Are tools required to replace the chin straps for cleaning and replacement? MSA Cairns chinstraps are easily removed with snaps for cleaning with soft goods, and replacement, without the need for tools.

Is the fire helmet easy to clean and maintain?

- The NFPA 1851, 2020 Standard on “Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting”, provides guidance on cleaning and inspection of fire helmets.
- MSA Cairns offers a free download of the [*“7 Steps To Clean Your Fire Helmet”*](#) to help guide you through performing on scene and Advanced Cleaning of Structural Fire Helmets.

What eye protection options are available for the fire helmet?

- MSA eye protection options include the NFPA Compliant Bourkes, Integrated Defender® Visors, and Cairns Firefighter Goggles.
- Does the integrated eye protection visor provide complete coverage while providing a close fit to the user's face when deployed properly?
- Is the integrated eye protection designed to be replaced without the need for tools or small spare parts?
- Eye protection options should be NFPA compliant and seamless to incorporate, deploy, and replace, regardless of your helmet style.

Does the fire helmet have a Shell Release System?

- With a Shell Release System (SRS), if your helmet comes off due to extenuating circumstances—such as a fall through a floor or roof—the impact cap is designed to separate from the helmet shell, but remain on your head, leaving your head protected from additional impact, projectiles and heat.

You have options when it comes to selecting a fire helmet to fit your needs. No matter what style appeals to you, always choose a helmet manufactured with a safety-first approach and engineered to provide the highest level of protection.

Is your department in the market for new fire helmets? If so, click below to start a discussion with MSA to see if you qualify for a formal department wear trial.

REQUEST DEPARTMENT WEAR TRIAL

Note: This Bulletin contains only a general description of the products shown. While product uses and performance capabilities are generally described, the products shall not, under any circumstances, be used by untrained or unqualified individuals. The products shall not be used until the product instructions/user manual, which contains detailed information concerning the proper use and care of the products, including any warnings or cautions, have been thoroughly read and understood. Specifications are subject to change without prior notice. MSA is a registered trademark of MSA Technology, LLC in the US, Europe, and other Countries. For all other trademarks visit <https://us.msasafety.com/Trademarks>.

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