



## CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

**Bid Number:**  
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Contact:**

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**Object:**

Narragansett Fire Co. No. 3 Uniform

**Object ID:**

1997.11.06.06

**Description:**

A red wool firefighter shirt from Company Number 3 in Narragansett, Rhode Island. The shirt is constructed from eight pieces: a front, a front placket, a collar, two arms, two cuffs, and a back. The seams connecting the parts are top-stitched for reinforcement. The shirt has 12 white fabric-covered buttons: one on each cuff, seven securing the placket, and three from the collar along the midline. The buttoned placket at the front opens so that the wearer can put it on over the head. The collar, placket, and cuffs are trimmed with off-white material.

Early firefighting uniforms were often made of wool because the proteins in the fiber resist burning.

**Measurements:**

Bust- 44"  
Shoulder width-17"  
Length (back top collar to hem)- 33 ¾"  
Sleeve- 26 ½"  
Collar circumference- 15"

**Category:**

Textile  
Clothing/Main Garment/Shirt  
Personal Symbols/Uniform/Firefighter  
Protective Equipment/Firefighter Shirt  
Clothing Sex: Male

**Location:**

Display Case 8  
Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection  
George Hail Free Library

**Condition Analysis:**

Overall, poor condition. The uniform has multiple areas of insect damage, tears along the front through to the back with some evidence of darning, and extensive staining on the sleeves and back. The wool fibers are desiccated and brittle; caution should be taken when handling in order not to increase tear dimensions. This item is currently on display on a hanger with minimal padding at the shoulders, causing stress and strain in this area.

**Recommended Treatments:**

Due to the extensive insect damage, it is highly recommended that this item be frozen. All areas of loss and tears should be stabilized. Curatorial usage will determine if an attempt should be made at reduction of the stains. If the item is kept on display, it should be mounted on an archival form for better support of the material. If going into storage, the shirt should be boxed flat with padding along the seams and arms.