



SAFETY FIRST

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Keeping Your Crew Members Safe from Fire - Does Your Gear Measure Up?

“In retrospect, my Simpson firesuit did what it was designed to do, saved my life and prevented injury to my body.”
- Bibb Bruton, Fueler, Bill Davis Racing



“The driver pulls into the pit. A piece of rubber lands on the rotor. When the driver exits the pit, he is forced to make a sharp right turn to avoid another truck. The turn knocks the hot rubber piece off the rotor and onto the ground, onto a line of fuel. The fire starts here, follows the Fueler, catches up to him and to the Catch Can man faster than either of them can think. After realizing they are on fire, they roll to the ground and are able to extinguish the fire.” All of this happened in a matter of seconds.

A chilling turn of events that recently happened to Bibb Bruton at Bill Davis Racing clearly shows the importance of proper protective gear for the entire team. Fortunately, both men involved in this incident walked away with only minor burns. It could have been much worse. The Fueler was wearing a Simpson 3 piece suit - the vest, the pants and the long sleeved shirt. After carefully inspecting the garments, we know they did their job. For optimal safety during a fire, Simpson is suggesting the following garments.

Simpson recommends the following for Fuel Handlers:

- Full Face SA Rated Helmet
- Wear fire retardant underwear, head socks and socks
- Wear fire retardant Fueler Apron
- Wear SFI approved gloves and shoes

The importance of fire retardant undergarments cannot be overlooked. Time and time again, these garments have proven to be the difference between minor or no injury and serious injury during a fire.

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