

NBC suit

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An **NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) suit** is a type of military personal protective equipment designed to provide protection against direct contact with and contamination by radioactive, biological or chemical substances, and provides protection from contamination with radioactive materials and some types of radiation, depending on the design. It is generally designed to be worn for extended periods to allow the wearer to fight (or generally function) while under threat of or under actual nuclear, biological, or chemical attack. The civilian equivalent is the Hazmat suit. The term NBC has been replaced by CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear), with the addition of a new threat, radiological, meaning radiological weapon.



Two Canadian soldiers wearing NBC suits

Sometimes they are called **chemsuits** or **chem suits** or **chemical suits**.

Reality

NBC stands for nuclear, biological, and chemical. It is a term used in the armed forces and in health and safety, mostly in the context of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) clean-up in overseas conflict or protection of emergency services during the response to a terrorist attack, though there are civilian and common-use applications (such as recovery and clean up efforts after industrial accidents).

In military operations, NBC suits are intended to be quickly donned over a soldier's uniform and can continuously protect the user for up to several days. Most are made of impermeable material such as rubber, but some incorporate a filter, allowing air, sweat and condensation to slowly pass through. An example of this is the Canadian military NBC suit.

The older Soviet suit was impermeable rubber-coated canvas. Now known as the CBRN suit, the British Armed Forces suit is reinforced nylon with charcoal impregnated felt. It is more comfortable because of the breathability but has a shorter useful life, and must be replaced often. The British Armed Forces suit is known as a "Noddy suit" because some of them had a pointed hood like the hat worn by the fictional character Noddy. The Soviet style suit will protect the wearer at higher concentrations than the British suit but is less comfortable due to the build-up of moisture within it. A Soviet suit was known as a "Womble" because of its long faced respirator with round visor glasses. In Canadian terminology, an NBC suit or any kind of similar protective over-suit is also known as a "Bunnysuit".



Smock of British military NBC suit



Overboots to be worn over combat boots

See also

- Hazmat suit
- CBRN (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear, known formerly as NBC)
- MOPP (Mission Oriented Protective Posture gear)
- Personal protective equipment
- Positive pressure personnel suit (PPPS) (for use in biocontainment)

- Weapons of mass destruction (WMD, formerly NBC weapon)
- Respirator
- Fallout shelter

External links

- Chemical protective suits reflect advancements in PPE (<http://www.thebigredguide.com/news/the-need-for-emergency-readiness-with-chemical-protective-equipment.html>)



Wikimedia Commons has media related to ***Nuclear, Biological, Chemical suits.***

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