



PHENIX 1500 TL 2 TRADITIONAL LEATHER FIRE HELMET CARE AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL

Please read all of the information contained in this manual. Fill out the form on the last page and send it to Phenix Technology. Keep a copy for your files.

Failure to comply with this request will void all warranties on your helmet.

Each member of the agency receiving this helmet must fill out the form to completion and the form must be mailed in to be kept on file.

PHENIX TRADITIONAL LEATHER HELMET 1500 TL-2

CARE AND MAINTENANCE

For assistance call toll free: 888-347-7838

Congratulations, you have in your possession one of the lightest weight, best constructed leather fire helmets on today's market. We have been developing this helmet for a year and a half and feel we have produced a traditional leather helmet that is ergonomically correct for the firefighter's head. We have achieved a balanced, low center of gravity, comfortably fitting helmet that can be worn for long periods without creating fatigue. This helmet is similar to the early leather helmets used from the 1940's until around 1976 when USOSHA and the NFPA developed standards that caused manufacturers to take those helmets off the market. At Phenix we feel that we have revived this tradition and produced a compliant leather fire helmet.

History also shows us that in the early days of leather fire helmets we fought fire in a manner different than today. It was not unusual for firefighters to stand outside and put hose streams through windows and onto roofs until there was no smoke showing. This might account for all of the antique leather helmets in museums and on the antique market. We know today we have a different situation. With all of our protective clothing in place we sometimes go too far. Leather, when it's heated for long periods of time, especially in a burn training facility, will warp. Plastic helmets bubble. Composite helmets delaminate. Don't compromise your personal protective clothing. We lose firefighters when we do. Ventilation is still important and only takes a few minutes.

As with any piece of safety equipment in the fire service you should be aware of the proper care and maintenance procedures for each item.

The helmet shell is made of top grain cowhide. This type of leather is strong and flexible and does a very good job as the basis for a

traditional fire helmet. When we speak of tradition we are speaking of the look rather than the leather, as today's cattle are different than those of the late 1900's. In 1850 or so, as the leather fire helmet was being developed, cattle were fed and cared for differently than they are today. It's not unusual for cattle to be fed high protein and any other chemical to make them grow faster and have less fat. This adds dimensions to the leather that were not present in the early days of the leather fire helmet. For years helmets made of leather, both military and fire, used a process called boiled leather. Helmet shells were soaked in heated rosin and mineral spirits for about nine weeks. Then they were air dried for around six weeks. At the end you had a hard leather shell that could stand up under vigorous use.

Today we have found that a leather helmet kept soft and flexible, using today's technology, will stand as much or more abuse than the early leather helmets. We, for example, have added a degree of flexibility to the rear brim so it will flex when hit by falling objects rather than snap your neck. We achieved the same characteristics in the raised crossover beams making them more resilient when struck from above.

This also keeps the leather from cracking.

The leather identification shield or frontis piece, as it was called in the old days, is made by Sam Brown Shields. Sam retired from the Los Angeles City Fire Department, moved his business to Kentucky, and put the same pride he had as a member of the fire service into his shields. If you promote or change fire agencies your new shield will fit exactly the same every time. That's one of our guarantees. Remove the cap nuts with a 5/16th nut driver. Take care not to lose the brass washers. Do not use a wrench as you can damage the finish on the ID shield. The shield is chrome tanned leather so it will stand up to heat, fire, water and anything else you might run into. Keep it clean by using mild soapy water and a soft cloth.

The outer leather shell is covered with a paint specially formulated for leather products. If you scrape or gouge it, it will show wear. The paint is easily touched up if this occurs. We have the paint available

WARRANTY FORM

FOR PHENIX 1500 TL-2 FIREFIGHTING HELMET

NAME OF USER: _____ RANK: _____

DATE OF ISSUE: _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF FIRE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: (_____) _____

LABEL IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION (Located under gray impact dome on right side)

LOT# _____

DATE OF MANUFACTURE _____

MODEL# _____

COLOR OF HELMET _____

TYPE OF EYE PROTECTION ISSUED WITH HELMET:

POP QUESTIONS?

WHAT IS THE HELMET OUTER SHELL MADE FROM? _____

WHAT SHOULD YOU NOT USE ON THE HELMET? _____

WHAT IS USED TO CLEAN YOUR GOGGLES? _____

PLEASE MAIL FORM TO:
PHENIX TECHNOLOGY
ATTN: WARRANTY CONTROL
12391 SAMPSON AVE. #H
RIVERSIDE, CA 92503

Failure to return warranty form will void any warranty on your helmet.

OF HEAT FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. COOL YOUR HELMET BETWEEN BURNS. THIS APPLIES TO ANY MODERN FIRE HELMET, WHETHER LEATHER, OR PLASTIC.

- **IMPORTANT: IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HELMET CALL PHENIX, AND WE WILL TAKE CARE TO SEE YOU GET THE INFORMATION YOU NEED IN A TIMELY MANNER.**

PLEASE NOTE: This document was written by the president of PHENIX TECHNOLOGY. I have been a member of the fire service for the last forty years. It is my sincere objective to see that the fire service personnel using our products do so in a safe and efficient manner. Fight fire using the information you have gained in training as your first line of defense or offense. Protective clothing will work only if you know your limitations. If you get injured you can't help your fellow firefighters or those citizens you have sworn to protect. **STAY SAFE.**

**RAY M. RUSSELL
PRESIDENT**

(888) 347-7838

Email: phenix1500@aol.com

www.phenixfirehelmets.com

if you need it. The paint will withstand high temperatures and is fire retardant. The thread is flexible NOMEX and will withstand heavy abuse. To clean the outer shell use mild dish soap in warm water and a soft cotton cloth. Dawn or Joy liquid dish soap will work just fine. **DO NOT USE HYDROCARBON SOLVENTS.** In the fire service today we have long sticks with pointy things on one end to break windows. It is better to use them (the tools) than your helmet. Glass can embed in the leather and later cause injury to the user.

The front ID holder is a brass phoenix or Phenix as we spell it. If it is damaged you can purchase a new one and the attachment holes will always be in the same place. To remove the Phenix shield holder use two 1/4" nut drivers. **NOTE:** If you put too much torque on the nut drivers it's possible to tighten the cap nuts until they break. If this happens, call and we'll send you a new set, or you can go to your local industrial hardware store to find them.

The inner shell of the helmet is injection molded thermal plastic that by itself can pass all of the compliancy requirements for a structural fire helmet and is sold separately as a rescue helmet. Use Isopropyl Alcohol and a soft cotton cloth to clean the inside of the dome. **DO NOT** remove the insulation tabs that cover the ID shield screws. These covers will give you protection up to 28,000 volts. **DO NOT** remove the required labels. If any of the labels come off due to cleaning or wear we can replace them. However, we have to know what was written on the old ones to be legal with various OSHA agencies. The one exception to this is the ratchet label. It is not necessary to keep it on after you have read it, just remember what it says.

The liner is as comfortable as you're going to find. It is the same liner that's in our full line of fire and rescue helmets. It can be provided with a nape strap or a ratchet device. The ear covers are Nomex on the outside and fire retardant cotton for the lining. The ear cover can be removable or permanent. There is a hook and loop adjustment on each side that will move the helmet forward or to the rear of your head. The nape and ratchet also adjust for a comfortable fit. The head liner can also be adjusted using the holes on each side at the liner hangers towards the front. If you need more

help on the adjustment please call us. The liner should be cleaned when soiled. Remove the liner by pulling on the head straps attached to the four hangers. Wash in mild liquid detergent and warm water. Air dry and replace in helmet. The gray impact dome can be removed and also cleaned in the same manner. The impact dome is removed by pulling on the sides. Clean it with warm water, then put it back in the same way it came out.

The chin strap is made of Nomex. It can be provided with a post-man's slide, a quick release or both, you choose. Clean the chin strap with warm water and mild liquid soap. Remember how you took both sides off and reinstall the system the same way.

The "D" ring in the rear can become loose. Tighten it with a Philips head screwdriver and a 5/16" nut driver. We recommend that you order the helmet without the "D" ring as this is the first place on a leather helmet that wears. You can hang the helmet by its chin strap and it works quite well, or you can place it on a helmet rack. We have a special cap nut with a long shank to help keep the brim from wearing out installed at this point.

EYE PROTECTION-----

We provide NFPA goggles made by Paulson Mfg. We will not provide a face shield. Our goggles are designed to provide superior protection and comfort. These goggles will fit over prescription eye glasses or sunglasses. They are made of high temperature injection molded plastic and high temp. rubber. Clean the goggles with warm water and a soft cotton cloth. SOAP IS NOT TO BE USED ON THE GOGGLES.

Flip-down BORKE style eye covers are not compliant to USOSHA or NFPA. They add weight to the front of the helmet. You should have a system in place to use goggles that are compliant when doing work that could cause eye injury. If you have a flip-down eye cover device attached to this helmet clean it with a soft cotton cloth and warm water. NO SOAP.

If you have a problem with the helmet please contact us immediately. Our toll free number is 888-347-7838. Contact your local dealer if you wish to purchase extra items for your helmet.

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR PHENIX 1500 TL2

- THIS IS A LEATHER HELMET. LEATHER IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE. IT IS NOT MADE AS LEATHER HELMETS WERE, IN THE 19TH CENTURY. IT'S BETTER.
- TREAT YOUR HELMET WITH CARE AND IT WILL GIVE YOU LONG YEARS OF SERVICE. USE THE HELMET AS A HEAD PROTECTION DEVICE, NOT AS A VENTILATION OR FORCIBLE ENTRY TOOL.
- THIS HELMET WITH HEAVY USE CAN BECOME SCRATCHED AND THE PAINT CAN BE WORN OFF. TOUCHING UP THE PAINT IS EASY. USE ONLY THE PAINT WE SPECIFY. USING ANOTHER BRAND OF PAINT COULD VOID THE WARRANTY OF THE HELMET. (THE PAINT IS AVAILABLE AT PHENIX.)
- THE "D" RING IN THE REAR IS THE FIRST PLACE A LEATHER FIRE HELMET WILL WEAR. EARLY LEATHER HELMETS DID NOT HAVE THIS DEVICE. HANG YOUR HELMET BY THE CHINSTRAP OR STORE IT ON A HELMET RACK.
- CLEAN THIS HELMET AND ITS COMPONENTS AS DIRECTED IN THE CARE AND MAINTENANCE SECTION OF THIS DOCUMENT. DO NOT USE ANY HYDROCARBON PRODUCTS ON THIS HELMET!!!!!!!
- WHEN TRAINING IN A BURN FACILITY OR A LIVE STRUCTURE FIRE BURN DO NOT TEST HOW MUCH HEAT YOU OR THE HELMET CAN TAKE. YOU WILL COMPROMISE YOUR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND PROVE THAT IT TAKES 167 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT TO RECEIVE A THIRD DEGREE BURN, AND 137 DF TO RECEIVE A SECOND DEGREE BURN. YOUR HELMET IS TESTED AT 500 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT FOR FIVE MINUTES AND PASSES THE NFPA TEST. YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE THAT AMOUNT