
	STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE			
	OPERATIONS			
	FIRE SCENE GROSS DECONTAMINATION			
	Effective: 12/Feb/2019	Revised: 28/Dec/2020	S.O.G. #: O-341	

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish the steps required for gross decontamination of responding crews and their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at the scene as soon as practical following an exposure.

2.0 Responsibility

2.1 It is the responsibility of all Highland Park Fire Department personnel to understand and follow the information documented in this Standard Operating Guideline. Supervisors are responsible for insuring that personnel maintain compliance with this guideline.

3.0 Background

3.1 It is understood by firefighters responding to a fire that during the extinguishment process their bodies and PPE can be exposed to harmful contaminants. Some of these substances have the potential to have an adverse effect on the health of personnel.

3.2 The implementation of gross decontamination at fire scenes can reduce exposure and the spread of contaminants. This will also assist in reducing cross-contamination of the apparatus and fire station(s).

4.0 Procedure

4.1 Decontamination shall be used on significant fires where personnel have been exposed to products of combustion including, but not limited to; structure fires, vehicle fires, dumpster fires, other fires resulting in large amounts of smoke and soot.

4.2 Decontamination of PPE

4.2.1 As soon as possible after being exposed to the products of combustion, personnel shall report to the decontamination station at the assigned engine.



4.2.2 The engineer of the engine assigned to decontamination shall make the decontamination station ready

4.2.2.1 Attach a garden hose and nozzle to an available port and set pump pressure to an appropriate level.

4.2.2.2 Open and stage wipes, away from the wash station, for use on firefighters' skin and other areas after PPE decontamination.

4.2.2.3 Place a garbage bag in a conspicuous position.

4.2.3 The engineer or assigned firefighter shall brush off the debris on personnel while they are still dressed in full PPE and SCBA. Use the soapy mix and brush to remove gross fire debris and contaminants. Rinse members with fresh water. Repeat as necessary.

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- 4.3 Decontamination of firefighters' bodies and SCBA face piece.
 - 4.3.1 Personnel shall use the provided wipes to remove soot and other debris from key areas of their bodies after removing all appropriate PPE. Wipe well and mop up debris, do not smear it around.
 - 4.3.2 The areas to focus on are the head, face, neck ears, jaw, throat underarms, hands and wrists. These areas are some of the most likely to be exposed at a fire scene.
 - 4.3.3 Clean inside of nostrils and blow nose several times to clear nasal passage.
 - 4.3.4 Use caution around eyes to minimize irritation from wipes.
 - 4.3.5 Use wipes to clean rubber areas of SCBA face piece.
 - 4.3.6 Dispose of used wipes in the garbage bag provided at the decontamination station.

5.0 Additional Operations Information

- 5.1 The decontamination kit carried on each fire apparatus shall consist of the following items:
 - 5.1.1.1 Two large packages of wipes.
 - 5.1.1.2 Twenty five foot length of garden hose with nozzle
 - 5.1.1.3 Liquid dish soap
 - 5.1.1.4 Coarse bristle brush
 - 5.1.1.5 1 ½” female to ¾” male garden hose thread reducer
 - 5.1.1.6 Garbage bags

6.0 Maintenance and Cleaning of PPE

- 6.1 Upon return to the station, PPE shall be cleaned in accordance with SOG#O-342., Cancer Risk Reduction Practices – Cleaning and Care of Personal Protective Clothing.

7.0 References

- 7.1 Highland Park Fire Department
- 7.2 Highland Park Personal Protective Clothing SOG # 311
- 7.3 Highland Park Cancer Risk Reduction Practices – Cleaning and Care of Personal Protective Clothing SOG#O-342.2

Approved:  Fire Chief