

# Hauser Lake Fire Protection District

## Standard Operating Guideline Gross Decontamination On The Fire Scene

Effective: \_9\_ / \_1\_ / 2018\_

SOG 032

### Purpose:

The purpose of this procedure is to mitigate the potential for exposure related cancers and the removal of harmful chemicals and carcinogens that are accumulated through fire extinguishment and overhaul through on scene gross decontamination of firefighting personnel.

### Definitions

**Contaminated:** The presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of materials foreign to the normal atmosphere, blood, hazardous waste or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

**Contamination:** The process of transferring a contaminated material from its source to personnel or equipment.

**Decontamination:** The physical or chemical process of reducing, removing and preventing the spread of contamination from personnel or equipment used at an incident.

**Full Protective Clothing:** Helmet, bunker coat, bunker pants, Nitrile gloves, structure gloves, Nomex hood and self-contained breathing apparatus and mask.

**IDLH:** Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health.

**PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment

**Decontamination Kit:** Wet wipes, scrub brush, roll of 1” hose with toy hose nozzle and 1 ¾”- 1” reducer, red bio bags for soiled wipes and gloves, black contractor bags for soiled PPE.

### Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander (IC) to ensure that any necessary decontamination of firefighters and equipment be completed before returning to quarters.

It shall be the responsibility of the driver/operator on the attack engine to establish the decontamination line ASAP. . Locate and set up "gross decontamination" in the appropriate area with the goal being 50' from the engine pump panel designated by a cone. ensuring that the runoff water will drain properly and not drain to a natural or domestic water source.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual firefighters to ensure that they are decontaminated prior to removing face pieces, exchanging air bottles, or prior to returning to quarters.

## **Equipment Needed**

### Decontamination Kit Contents

- 5-gallon bucket
- Wipes
- Garden hose to 2 ½” adapters on engines
- Garden hose
- Nozzle
- Dish soap
- Heavy duty brush
- Heavy duty large trash bags

Ground Tarp

Cone

## **General Provisions**

- During Fireground operations personnel should remove soiled hood and replace with a clean hood any time they enter rehab or exiting from the operations area and then returning to operations.
- Personnel should not wear heavily soiled PPE for the return back to the station.
- Contaminated SCBA should be placed and secured in hose bed/crow’s nest for transport.
- Notify Officer in charge if Decontamination Kit contents need to be replaced.
- Individuals performing the decontamination should wear at minimum; eye protection, an N-95 respirator, and latex gloves. The decontamination hose line will be charged to pump pressure only. Firefighters should take advantage of this decontamination line prior to exchanging their air cylinders. The hose line will also be used for post-incident decontamination.
- If practical, crews should perform these gross decontamination procedures on each other while they are still on air. Staying on air will prevent firefighters from getting contaminants splashed into their face and also protect them from inhaling airborne contaminants that are off-gassing from their personal protective equipment (PPE). Members are encouraged to use the ‘decontamination wipes’ when in Rehab prior to donning their self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and re-engaging other suppression or overhaul activities. Also, firefighters are encouraged to remove and bag hoods and use a clean hood when returning to firefighting activities.

## **Wet Decontamination Procedure**

1. Add soap to the brush
2. Brush and wash off your gloves
3. Close all pockets and flaps
4. Slowly, without tipping it, remove and wash your helmet
5. Clutch collar to minimize water entering through the neck opening
6. With your hood in place, wash off your hood, face piece, and regulator
7. Wash your SCBA tank and connections
8. While removing your face piece be careful to keep it from any contaminated areas on your gear
9. Wipe your face and hands off with wipes

## **Dry Decontamination Responsibility**

During cold inclement weather the process of soaking firefighters while performing a wet decontamination may create additional safety hazards such as hypothermia and equipment failure. The following steps may be utilized in these cases:

1. Brush off all large particles from the PPE, working from the head down
2. Use damp towels to wipe the area around the firefighter's face piece to suspend any particulate matter
3. Attempt to remove all of the visible contaminants

## **Post Activity Decontamination On-Scene**

- Individuals shall wear eye protection and at a minimum an N-95 respirator and latex gloves.
- All equipment and hose will be hosed down thoroughly prior to being placed on the apparatus.
- PPE shall be doffed to the extent practical, sprayed, brushed with Dawn detergent (or similar), and rinsed off.
- All PPE doffed and not worn should be placed in a trash bag in order to reduce contamination of the interior of the apparatus.
- Wipe your face and hands off with wipes.

## **Reference: Rehab SOG 27**