



GENERAL ORDER

Safety Stand Down

Date: January 7, 2022

Number: 22.001

Effective Date: December 28, 2021

Expiration Date: N/A

Approved By: Darren L. Stevens, Fire Rescue Chief

On January 5th 2022, the International Association of Fire Chiefs issued a Safety Stand Down in response to the COVID-19 pandemic's effects on the Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Responders professions.

The significance of this pandemic is undeniable, and being felt by our department right now, more than ever. It is imperative that we all stay as informed as possible in regard to current trends, status, and guidance that pertains to this medical crisis.

Given that importance we ask that all system members take the time to review the materials provided by the IAFC, which can be found at the following links.

In addition, all Fauquier County Fire & Rescue (DFREM) Station Officer's shall take the time to review the materials with their staff as part of their daily shift regimen. The Station Officer's should ensure adequate time and attention is given to providing this training opportunity to staff members.

Should anyone have questions in regard to this general order they may contact their shift Battalion Chief.

<https://www.iafc.org/press-releases/press-release/covid-19-firefighter-survival-informational-stand-down?fbclid=IwAR01QdIfpK0Ze7uNvF222dF8mtZd0pUFJkdYY1s2HYPYOFQJ-fDflQi47Ko>

<https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2820%2932662-3>

<https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/coronavirus-covid-19# covidResourcesIAFC>

https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/lg-scale-response/covid19_responseguidelinesformassgatheringslargecrowds.pdf?sfvrsn=dc696d0c_2

<https://youtu.be/KwhTQU3wVdg>

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY & SURVIVAL EMERGENCY STAND DOWN



IAFC

International Association of Fire Chiefs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2022

The **International Association of Fire Chiefs** is urging all FIRE CHIEFS, FIRE OFFICERS, LABOR LEADERS and FIREFIGHTERS to join in a COVID-19 FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL INFORMATIONAL STAND DOWN.

While there is no question that we are all aware of the impact of COVID-19 on the various levels of our workforce, it should be noted that as of December 30, 2021, there have been a total of 240 U.S firefighter deaths (86 in 2020 and 154 in 2021) since the start of the pandemic. Now, as 2022 begins, we are seeing a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases that continues to impact our fire and emergency medical service (EMS) personnel and our ability to provide staffing serve our communities.

The leadership of the **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)** has stated the importance of not letting our guard down when it comes to protecting ourselves from this disease. It is critical that firefighters be protected through vaccinations to maintain their readiness to respond to COVID-19 and other emergencies as we see the number of COVID-19 positive tests, hospitalizations, and deaths continue to rise due to the Omicron variant, amidst an already active flu season.

In an effort to embrace safe behaviors and practices through education, and as a part of the IAFC Safety Health and Survival Section's Fire/EMS Safety Support System, the IAFC is recommending this **Firefighter Safety and Survival Stand Down** and is urging all fire service leaders to conduct a formal **informational session** at each fire and/or EMS station in North America during the week of January 9th through January 15th.

This **EMERGENCY STAND DOWN** provides fire service leaders an opportunity to focus attention on the impact of the COVID-19 virus and the safety, health, and survival of our workforces. Through formal presentations by leadership, to include the department's medical director, firefighters and EMS personnel can receive life-saving education on the facts in an apolitical environment that focuses on personal safety; safety of firefighters' families; and the safety of those we serve in our communities.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY & SURVIVAL EMERGENCY STAND DOWN

By following this link https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/1safehealthshs/covid-stand-down_v8_iafc.pptx?sfvrsn=61d0650c_2 you can access a very informative PowerPoint presentation that can be used by fire officers and firefighters alike to facilitate informational sessions with factual data related to COVID-19 and the job tasks performed by our firefighters and EMS members. In addition, the IAFC has prepared and collected several additional resources that may be helpful for you to use during this session. These resources can also be found at: <https://www.iafc.org/topics-and-tools/coronavirus-covid-19#CovidResourcesIAFC>.

Any questions you or your fire department has regarding information from this **COVID-19 FIREFIGHTER SURVIVAL INFORMATIONAL STAND DOWN** can be directed to the IAFC Safety, Health and Survival Section. Dr. James Augustine, MD, FACEP, and Chair of the IAFC COVID-19 Taskforce will then answer these questions through his weekly "Ask the Doc" program which can be found at www.science-alliance.org.

Stay Safe!



KENNETH W STUEBING, BHSc
HE/HIM
President and Board Chair
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)



Scott D. Kerwood, PhD
Safety, Health and Survival Section Chair
International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)

COVID-19 PPE DECONTAMINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

QUICK-REFERENCE INFOGRAPHIC

N95/P100 FFR

- Extend Operational Life
(do not store in plastic containers)
- Reuse By Same Operator
(following daily inspection)
- Decon with bleach solution
(1.6 ratio, bleach:H₂O, soak 5min, rinse - dry over night)
- Replace when breathing resistance is uncomfortable



SCBA APR/PAPR

- Reuse, by same operator, canisters
(wipe down with disinfectant, DO NOT SPRAY)
- Store in humidity free area when not in use
- Wash all respirators per manufacturer instructions

FACE/EYEWEAR

- Use goggles rated D3 or D5 per ANSI Z87.1
- Preference should be goggles over faceshields/safety glasses
- Wash eyewear and use disinfectant
- Clean and disinfect reusable eyewear between patients



MEDICAL GLOVES

- Wear medical grade or NFPA 1999 exam gloves
- Dispose of gloves after use
- Gloves can be wiped or rinsed with alcohol during use
- Always practice hand cleaning/sanitizing

CLOTHING

- Use barrier clothing over work uniform
- Extended contact: use clothes that meet ASTM F1671
(e.g., EMS - NFPA 1999)
- Wash clothes at warmest temp allowed
- Use EPA- approved laundry sanitizer



STRUCTURAL & WILDLAND PPE

- Only use if no other PPE is available
- Use specialized cleaning post-exposure with wash temp of 140F and apply verified sanitization process
(e.g., EPA-approved laundry sanitizer)



REMEMBER:

- Limit number of responders exposed
- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
- Change/laundry clothes quickly after exposure
- Clean equipment and surfaces after every call
- Maintain distancing when possible

SCAN TO STAY UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR FIRE & EMS FROM THE IAFC:

