

Fauquier County Department of Fire Rescue

OPERATING PROCEDURE

No. 714

Post Incident Exposure Reduction & Decontamination

Effective Date: July 1, 2019

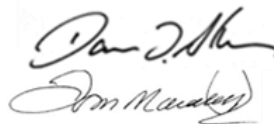
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PURPOSE

To provide policy and procedure regarding on scene post incident exposure reduction and preliminary decontamination of personal protective equipment and to adequately prepare PPE for advanced cleaning and inspection or offsite professional cleaning, repair if needed and decontamination. This policy will provide the member with instructions for post incident exposure reduction procedure and the tools and equipment to be utilized to accomplish this task.

SCOPE

Applies to all personnel operating with the Fauquier County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management and the Fauquier County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association and its associated departments.

I. PREFACE

This operating procedure will define the steps for on scene exposure reduction that will greatly assist in removing harmful chemicals and carcinogens that are accumulated on PPE and skin during fire extinguishment and overhaul. Elements of this policy may not apply when emergency incidents require immediate engagement of personnel and equipment. This will be based on the needs of the Incident Commander and the safety of all operating crews and the public will be considered.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to ensure that any necessary decontamination of firefighters and equipment be completed prior to leaving the fire ground.
- B. The primary attack engine driver operator will establish the decontamination line as soon as possible, after all necessary fire control functions have been completed. The driver operator should consider the condition of the water being utilized for exposure reduction procedures and efforts should be made to use water from municipal water sources as opposed to rural water sites which may contain additional contaminants.

Desire to Serve

Ability to Perform

Courage to Act

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- C. Individuals performing the exposure reduction procedures and the packaging of PPE shall wear at a minimum: eye protection, N95 mask and EMS gloves.
- D. Crews should attempt to perform these exposure reduction procedures while staying on air. This will further prevent firefighter from having contaminants splash into their face and eyes and will also prevent the inhalation of airborne contaminants that are off-gassing from their PPE.
- E. The driver operator or individual who is responsible for setting up the decontamination line will do so utilizing the Exposure Reduction Buckets that will be on all suppression units, specialty units, and Incident Support Unit 1110 (IS1110). The contents of the exposure prevention buckets are as follows:
 - 1. Five Gallon Bucket with Lid
 - 2. 2.5" Garden Hose Adapter
 - 3. Short Handle Scrub Brush
 - 4. Safety Glasses
 - 5. N95 Mask
 - 6. Dawn Dish Soap
 - 7. Expandable Hose with Nozzle
 - 8. Baby Wipes
 - 9. Page protectors, blank ensemble forms, zip ties, and sharpie markers for third party advanced cleaning and inspection
 - 10. Red, Yellow, and Clear Bags for PPE Packaging
 - 11. Duct Tape
- F. On scene exposure reduction procedures are a head to toe, front to back cleaning of the PPE which may consist of either of the following methods:
 - 1. Wet decontamination procedures (for medium to heavy exposure such as interior firefighting or exterior operations while working in close proximity to the fire for long durations). Wet decontamination procedures must be used for exposure to respirable contaminants.
 - a. Add Dawn to the brush
 - b. Brush and wash off gloves
 - c. Empty and then close all pockets and flaps of PPE
 - d. Slowly without tipping, remove and wash helmet
 - e. Clutch collar to minimize water entering through the neck opening

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- f. With hood in place, wash hood, face piece, and regulator
 - g. Working from head to toe brush all gear with soap and water mixture, spraying contaminates as you progress to the boots.
 - h. Wash SCBA cylinder and connections
 - i. Remove firefighting gloves with the assistance of the person performing decontamination.
 - j. Wipe face piece with baby wipe
 - k. While removing your face piece be careful to keep it away from any contaminated areas
 - l. Once all PPE is removed wipe hands, neck, and face with baby wipes to remove any contaminates on the skin.
- G. Dry decontamination procedure (used during extreme inclement weather to prevent hypothermia or further safety hazards or when light exposure to dry products of combustion for short periods of time has occurred)
1. Brush off all large particles from the PPE, working from head down
 2. Use baby wipe or damp towel to wipe the area around the firefighter's face piece to suspend any particulate matter
 3. Attempt to *remove* all of the visible contaminates.

III. PREPARING PPE FOR ADVANCED CLEANING AND INSPECTION/OFF-SITE CLEANING

- A. The following steps must be completed to prepare your PPE for advanced cleaning and inspection.
1. Remove all items from pocket
 2. Remove internal harness (drag strap or ORD)
 3. Separate shells and liner
 4. Place gloves, hood, coat, pants, helmet and boots into appropriate department issued containment bag:
 - a. Use RED bio hazard bags as applicable (if contaminated with blood or body fluid).
 - b. Use YELLOW bags for exposure or suspected exposure to asbestos or any other respirable contaminates.

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- c. Use CLEAR bags for normal exposure to products of combustion. There are larger sized clear bags within the kit which can be used for multiple sets of PPE. These SHOULD NOT be used for third party or off-site cleaning.
- 5. Provide an ensemble information and repair form to identify your PPE from others to prevent lost or misplaced gear. For third party cleaning, this form shall be placed in a provided page protector and zip tied to the exterior of the bag.
- 6. All members will keep an ensemble information and repair form completed in PPE in a sealed bag to prevent damage.
- 7. All bags must be tied shut folded over and duct taped closed.
- B. PPE that is available for commercial cleaning that is properly bagged must be sent to Logistics at EMS1.
- C. PPE not available for commercial cleaning is to be cleaned manually at the station by personnel wearing the minimum PPE to prevent dermal transfer and inhalation of contaminants.

IV. IMMEDIATELY AFTER DOFFING

Compliance with all incident rehabilitation is required immediately after doffing of PPE.

V. SHOWERING FOLLOWING EXPOSURE

Post incident exposure reduction extends to showering at the station as soon as feasible following exposure to products of combustion. This will provide a more thorough washing of skin.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

All personnel shall complete the online training which can be found at <http://cancerprevention.mycourse.com/>