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| ***REPLACE WITH YOUR MASTHEAD*** | | |
| **VFIS logo black JPG** | **SOG Title:** | |
| **SOG Number:** | |
| **Original Date:** | **Revision Date:** |
| **ABC Fire Department General Operating Guideline** | | |

**Decontamination – PPE & Personnel**

***This is a sample of a standard operating guideline (SOG) on this topic. You should review the content, modify as appropriate for your organization, have it reviewed by your leadership team and if appropriate your legal counsel. Once adopted, make sure the SOG is communicated to members, implemented and performance monitored for effective implementation.***

**Purpose:**

To establish a program to minimize contamination of personnel, personal protective equipment, and clothing by potential carcinogens encountered at emergency scenes.

**Scope:**

This guideline will apply to all personnel involved in firefighting activities that exposes individuals to the products of combustion.

**Procedure:**

**Equipment and PPE Decontamination**

* Following completion of incident operations and/or personnel who have been exposed and not reentering the hot zone, PPE should be thoroughly rinsed of particulate contamination with a booster line or other suitable means prior to transporting the gear in any vehicle passenger area. Rinse gear at a downward angle from top to bottom.
* SCBA should be thoroughly rinsed of particulate debris before being returned to the apparatus cab.
* Firefighting equipment exposed to the products of combustion such as hose, nozzle, ladders, tools, fans, etc. should be thoroughly rinsed of particulate with a booster line or other suitable means prior to storing on the apparatus. Upon return to quarters, equipment should be further cleaned/wiped down as necessary with appropriate cleaners and methods consistent with manufacturer recommendations.
* PPE with any soot or particulate stain, or presence of an odor of smoke shall be taken apart and cleaned in an extractor as soon as possible following the incident.
  + Soiled gear that can be cleaned following the shift will be passed along to the oncoming shift to ensure cleaning. Oncoming personnel will ensure that the gear being cleaned is reassembled and returned to the appropriate locker.
  + In cases where gear must be cleaned during the shift, personnel should select a suitable set of substitute gear among sets present at the station.
  + Reference guideline "Personal Protective Equipment" for further laundering instructions.

**Personnel Decontamination**

* Personnel shall perform gross decontamination of their person while on scene. Exposed skin should be rinsed of particulates with water, following by use of decontamination wipes.
* Personal decontamination wipes will be made available to personnel. These wipes should be located on each engine. Special attention should be given to the neck, throat, face, and ears. Hands and arms should be wiped down on scene.
* Soiled decontamination wipes will be disposed of properly. Stock shall be maintained on specified apparatus. Additional supply will be restocked for station supply upon returning to quarters. When the station supply is exhausted, additional wipes must be replaced.
* Soiled uniform items will be laundered as soon as possible upon return
* Upon return to station, personnel will rotate through showering while apparatus is being placed in service. All exposed personnel will shower using soap and water.

***This is a sample guideline furnished to you by VFIS. Your organization should review this guideline and make the necessary modifications to meet your organization’s needs. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing exposure to the risk of injury, harm or damage to personnel, property and the general public. For additional information on this topic, contact your VFIS Risk Control representative.***

**References:**

Ponderosa (TX) Fire Department, PPE & Personnel Decontamination