

HIGH RISK/LOW FREQUENCY

HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

GUIDELINE NO: 200.11

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION

APPROVAL: Scott St. Martin, Fire Chief

Effective Date: 11-27-17

Revised Date: n/a

PURPOSE

This guideline describes the required actions for cancer prevention.

RESPONSIBILITY

1. All Chief and Company Officers have the responsibility to comply with and ensure that the personnel under their command are adequately trained, fully understand, and comply with this guideline.
2. All firefighters have the responsibility to learn and follow this guideline.

GUIDELINE

- A. All firefighters will be issued a 2nd hood. This will allow firefighting personnel to be able to wash and dry one hood after every use, thus allowing a clean hood for use at all times. The areas of the scalp and angle of the jaw are among the most absorbent areas of the body for contaminants. Currently, our hoods are not manufactured with a moisture barrier, and must be kept as free of contaminants as possible. Hoods may be washed in a washing machine on a gentle cycle setting. Laundry detergent shall be used to clean the hoods but bleach shall never be used. The hoods can be placed in a clothes dryer. Please run one additional wash cycle to clean the washing machine after washing your hood. **(NOTE: firefighters are not allowed to wear two or more hoods at the same time under any circumstance).**
- B. Wet Decon – Immediate wet decon is essential to reducing contaminants that may have settled on your bunker gear (ex: asbestos). Therefore, wet decon is suggested anytime your gear may have been exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants, or if the Company Officer, Chief or Incident Commander deems it necessary. Every effort should be made to wet decon as soon as possible, preferably while still on scene. Use a red-line, at pump pressure, or garden hose if possible, based on weather and environmental conditions. Rinse at a downward angle from top to bottom. Wet decon is not recommended prior to rehab if crew member is expected to return to hot zone. Wet gear could be a steam hazard. Dry decon or removal of gear during rehab is preferred.
- C. Removing gear before returning to the station is recommended. Contaminated PPE should not be transported in crew compartment of apparatus if possible.
- D. Any PPE exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants, will be rinsed off or washed in the extractor washing machine depending on level of contamination and hung to dry.
- E. Exposed areas of the body (neck and face) should be wiped off during re-hab and again at the end of the incident using wipes provided by the department. Wipes should be disposed of in sealed bags.
- F. Shower as soon as possible after being exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants. Within one hour of exposure if possible.
- G. No contaminated bunker gear shall be allowed in the station until gross decon is completed.

- H. Any clothing worn under bunker gear that has been exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants, shall be changed as soon as possible.
- I. Apparatus seats should be cleaned and decontaminated regularly, especially after incidents where passengers were exposed to products of combustion.
- J. Full bunker gear and SCBAs shall be worn through overhaul operations when products of combustion and/or gases and vapors are present. Meters should be used during overhaul operations to monitor conditions.
- K. Hudson Fire Department members will avoid use of personal vehicles whenever possible to relieve companies on scene or transport equipment. Department vehicles should be used for all relief and transportation scenarios and shall be coordinated by on-duty leadership.
- L. This SOG may be revised as necessary to ensure the highest level of cancer prevention.