



Roosevelt Fire District

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section:
Operations

Guideline: 23
Firefighter DECON

Purpose: To provide the Roosevelt Fire District a policy and procedure regarding on scene decontamination of personal protective equipment (PPE) and skin following the exposure to the products of combustion.

Scope: This instruction applies to all District personnel involved in on scene emergency operations resulting in exposures to the products of combustion that can be removed using the prescribed procedures. The decontamination instruction outlined in other Department policies may be required when determined by the incident commander.

Objective: To provide on scene decontamination of PPEs and skin to reduce the possibility of hazardous compounds found in the products of combustion from entering the body.

Procedure:

All uniformed personnel exposed to the products of combustion are responsible for ensuring they complete on scene decontamination as directed by the Incident Commander (IC) or his/her designee and after completing all operational assignments.

Incident commanders are responsible for:

1. Determining when on scene decontamination is required
 - a. Initiation of On Scene Decontamination
 - i. On scene decontamination of PPE shall be performed on incidents where personnel are exposed to the products of combustion and when the IC determines it is required.
 - ii. Decontamination shall also be performed after Training events where personnel are exposed to the products of combustion
2. Determine the level of firefighting decontamination appropriate for personnel.
3. Identifying exposure to hazardous materials and implementing procedures
4. Ensuring personnel are compliant with directive.

Company Officers are responsible for:

1. Monitoring their personnel for exposure to the products of combustion and ensuring decontamination of PPEs and skin occurs on scene.
2. Ensuring their unit is made available for responses as soon as feasible after personnel and equipment are clean.
3. Company officers are responsible for the daily inspection, cleanliness, and working order of the PPE of all assigned personnel. PPE requiring cleaning or repair shall be cleaned according to Department procedure.

Safety Officer and other designees' responsibilities are:

1. Identifying the location of on scene decontamination and informing the chain-of-command.
 - a. On Scene Decontamination Area.
 - i. An on-scene decontamination area shall be upwind from the operational area at a distance where no additional exposure may be possible.
2. Preparing the on-scene decontamination area.
 - a. The following items shall be positioned at this location:
 - i. Dry brush

- ii. Five-gallon bucket.
 - iii. Liquid soap/water mixture: three-ounce dish soap mixed with three gallons water.
 - iv. Plastic scrub brush.
 - v. 1-inch hose line from apparatus with low flow fog nozzle or garden hose with spray nozzle.
- 3. Supervising on scene decontamination.
- 4. Preparing PPE doffing area

On Scene Decontamination:

On scene decontamination requires personnel being decontaminated to remain in full PPE with facepiece donned and breathing from the air bottle. Personnel performing decontamination shall be in appropriate PPE to support personnel in operational area; nitrile gloves, eye protection and N95 mask at minimum.

- 1. Personnel should be assigned to on scene decontamination as assigned units
- 2. On scene decontamination is a head to toe, and front and back, cleaning of the PPE that may consist of either of the following types as determined by the degree of exposure. The IC or his/her designee makes the determination:
 - a. Light Exposure – Exposure to dry products of combustion for a short duration.
 - i. Decontamination requirements - Dry brush used to remove dry contaminants.
 - b. Moderate to Heavy Exposure - Exposure to interior firefighting or exterior operations while working near the fire for longer durations.
 - i. Decontamination requirements - Water and soap mixture
Scrub followed with water spray rinse.

Doffing PPEs after Decontamination:

PPE doffing shall take place next to the decontamination area and downwind but adjacent to the rehabilitation/medical treatment area. Personnel shall limit skin contact with PPEs at the conclusion of decontamination by wearing impermeable gloves while removing PPEs. Contaminated turnout coat, pants gloves, and hood should be placed in a plastic bag with the top secured and transported back to the station in a compartment where exposure is minimized. The following items shall be positioned at this location:

- 1. Impermeable gloves.
- 2. Sanitation wipes.
 - a. Cleaning of skin during Doffing of PPEs. Personnel shall use Department approved sanitation wipes to remove contaminants on the skin during the doffing process.
- 3. Respiratory protection masks.
- 4. Large plastic trash bags for PPE and trash (soiled sanitation wipes and disposable towels).
- 5. Compliance with incident rehabilitation/medical treatment plan is required immediately after doffing of PPE.