

	POST FIRE DECONTAMINATION AUTHORED BY: Lt. Bobby Bartlett APPROVED BY: <i>Mark Miller</i>	2016 revA FESSAM #7F.3 EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/2016 REVISION DATE: 09/01/2019
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Procedure:

Responsibility:

It shall be the responsibility of the incident commander and/or the company officer to ensure that any necessary decontamination of firefighters and/or equipment be completed before returning to quarters.

It shall be the responsibility of the driver/operator of the attack engine to establish the decontamination line as early in the incident as possible.

It shall be the responsibility of the individual firefighters to ensure that they are decontaminated prior to removing face pieces, exchanging air cylinders or returning to quarters.

It shall be the responsibility of the company officer to ensure that all decontamination of gear, equipment and personnel are completed at the station.

Equipment Needed:

1. 5-gallon bucket
2. Rescue wipes
3. Garden hose to 1½" adapter
4. Garden hose
5. Nozzle or wand
6. Dawn dish soap
7. Heavy duty brush
8. Plastic bunker gear bag or heavy duty large trash bags.

Decontamination:

Individuals performing the decontamination should wear, at a minimum, eye protection, an N-95 respirator and latex gloves.

The decontamination hose line will be charged to pump pressure only. Firefighters should take advantage of this decontamination line prior to exchanging their air cylinders. The hose line will also be used for post-incident decontamination.

If practical, crews should perform these gross decontamination procedures on each other while they are still on air. Staying on air will prevent firefighters from getting contaminants splashed into their face and also protect them from inhaling airborne contaminants that are off-gassing from their PPE.

Wet Decontamination Procedures

1. Add Dawn to the brush.
2. Brush and wash off your gloves.
3. Close all pockets and flaps.
4. Slowly, without tipping it, remove and wash your helmet.
5. Clutch collar to minimize water entering through the neck opening.
6. With your hood in place, wash off your hood, face piece and regulator.
7. Wash your SCBA tank and connections.
8. While removing your face piece, be careful to keep it from any contaminated areas on your gear.
9. Wipe your face, neck and hands with rescue wipes.

Dry Decontamination Procedures

During cold or inclement weather, the process of soaking firefighters while performing a wet decontamination may create additional safety hazards such as hypothermia and equipment failure.

1. Brush off all large particles from the PPE, working from the head down.
2. Use damp towels to wipe the area around the firefighter's facepiece to suspend any particulate matter.
3. Attempt to remove all of the visible contaminants.
4. Wipe your face, neck and hands with rescue wipes.

Post Activity Decontamination on Scene

1. Individuals will wear eye protection, N-95 respirator and latex gloves.
2. All equipment and hose will be hosed down thoroughly prior to being placed on the apparatus.
3. PPE shall be doffed, sprayed, brushed with Dawn detergent and rinsed.
4. All PPE should be placed in a plastic gear bag in order to reduce contamination of the compartments of the apparatus. No contaminated PPE will be stored in the cab of the apparatus.
5. Wipe your face and hands with rescue wipes.

Post Activity Decontamination at the Station

1. Individuals will wear eye protection, N-95 respirator and latex gloves.
2. PPE will be removed from plastic gear bags and broken down for washing. All PPE will be washed (per manufacturer instructions) as soon as you are back at the station.
3. The inside of the apparatus will be decontaminated thoroughly using disinfecting wipes.
4. Once all the decontamination of the apparatus and equipment is completed, each member shall shower and change into a clean uniform.
5. Once showered, each member shall wash any clothing they had on while on scene of the incident.

Revision History

8/2016 formatting changes-Pollema

References:

Firefighter Cancer Consultants (N.D.). Gross Decontamination on the Fire Scene.