

Post Incident Decontamination

906.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To guide personnel in the removal of contaminants from PPE and reduce firefighter exposure to potential cancer-causing toxins.

This guideline applies to all Magnolia Fire Department / MCESD10 personnel who respond to or assist with operations at emergency incidents and live-fire training.

906.1.1 OBJECTIVE

To define a procedure for all personnel to follow for removal of soiling or contaminants from personnel protective ensemble, equipment, and personnel operating at emergency incidents, training evolutions, or any operations that could have the potential of soil or contaminant. This process shall be used on location of emergency incidents where PPE was worn in an immediate dangerous to life or health (IDLH) atmosphere.

906.1.2 DEFINITIONS

Advanced Cleaning - The thorough cleaning of the ensemble or elements by washing with cleaning agents in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 1850.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) - Materials or weapons that pose severe, often lethal, threats to human health and safety through intentional, accidental, or natural releases.

Cross-Contamination - The transfer of products of combustion, and/or other hazardous materials containing toxic, corrosive, carcinogenic, bodily fluids, infectious microorganisms, CBRN agents onto or in apparatus cabs and compartments, personnel, stations, or other clean areas.

Decon Kits - Carried on each apparatus, consisting of:

- Five (5) - gallon plastic bucket with a lid
- Cleaning Agent
- (2) Soft Bristle Brushes, one (1) for wet use, one (1) for dry use
- Pump Sprayer
- 2 mil poly plastic bags
- Decontamination Body Wipes
- Duct tape

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) Atmosphere - Any area where the concentration of toxic, corrosive, or asphyxiating substances poses an immediate threat to life and health or would cause irreversible or delayed adverse effects. An interior structure fire, beyond the incipient stage, is presumed to be an IDLH atmosphere.

Post Incident Decontamination

Preliminary Exposure Reduction ("PER") - Techniques for reducing soiling and contamination levels on the exterior of the ensemble or ensemble element following incident operations. Formerly known as Gross Decontamination

Universal Precautions: The act of wearing personal protective equipment, such as nitrile gloves and eye wear, reducing exposure to contaminants, hazardous materials, and or bodily fluids.

906.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. **Incident Commander (IC):** The IC is responsible for the overall direction and coordination of resources during and post incident demobilization. The IC will ensure the preliminary exposure reduction process is initiated.
- B. **Company Officers:** To ensure that the preliminary exposure reduction process of personnel, PPE, SCBA, and equipment has been adequately performed prior to resources being released from an emergency scene or training event.
- C. **Firefighters:** To ensure that all clothing, PPE, equipment, SCBA, and personnel have appropriately and adequately been through a preliminary exposure reduction process before leaving an incident or training event.
- D. **ALL Personnel:** Shall be responsible for utilizing universal precautions while performing any operations with contaminated PPE, SCBA, and equipment.

906.3 ON-SCENE PRELIMINARY EXPOSURE REDUCTION (PER) PROCESS

- A. Upon exiting the emergency scene or training evolution, personnel shall wear all components of SCBA and remain "on-air".
- B. Dry and/or wet mitigation techniques shall be conducted prior to removal of any ensemble or ensemble elements.
- C. Personnel conducting the PER process shall utilize universal precautions.
- D. Garden hose or apparatus 1" rubber red firefighting hose may be used for wet mitigation techniques.
- E. Dry mitigation techniques shall be performed by removing debris from the exterior portion of the ensemble elements, utilizing a soft bristle brush.
- F. Wet mitigation techniques shall be performed by gently rinsing the exterior portion of the ensemble elements using low pressure, low volume flow of water.
- G. A mild cleaning agent is permitted to aid in wet mitigation techniques.
- H. After completing dry and wet mitigation, all ensemble elements shall be isolated, bagged, sealed, and placed in an apparatus compartment. At no time shall contaminated ensemble elements be transported in the apparatus cab, unless all other options have been exhausted.
- I. Personnel shall utilize body decontamination wipes to clean areas around the face, neck, arms, and hands.

Post Incident Decontamination

- J. All equipment shall be cleaned utilizing dry and wet mitigation techniques prior to being placed onto apparatus.
- K. SCBA shall be cleaned utilizing dry and wet mitigation techniques prior to being placed onto apparatus. If possible, place SCBA components in an apparatus compartment until additional cleaning and sanitizing can be completed.

906.4 EXPOSURE REDUCTION PROCEDURES AT THE STATION(S)

- A. Personnel should begin showering as soon as they return to the station. This may require an additional shower after all operational readiness is completed, but it will provide the best defense against prolonged exposure to contaminants. All uniforms and undergarments worn during the incident or training evolution should be changed and washed.
- B. Universal precautions shall be worn during the cleaning and sanitizing PPE and equipment.
- C. PPE will be removed from bags and allowed to off gas and air dry outside of the cab area, avoiding weather elements and direct sunlight.
- D. Any areas and equipment cross-contaminated shall be cleaned.
- E. SCBA face pieces and components, including cylinders, shall be cleaned and sanitized. Do not use compressed air or spray a cleaning agent directly inside a regulator.
- F. Thermal Imaging Cameras, flashlights, radios, and remote microphone speakers shall be cleaned and sanitized.

906.5 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

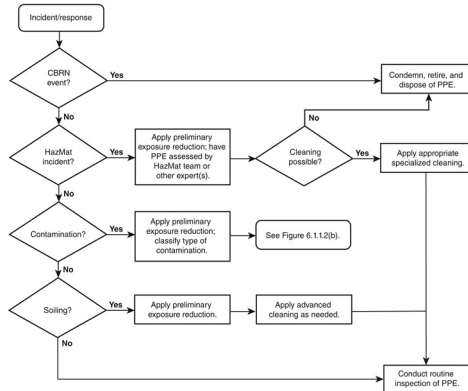
On confirmed Hazardous Materials Incidents, the hazardous materials company overseeing the incident shall be consulted for the appropriate decontamination methods for contamination of ensemble elements.

- Ensemble components contaminated by CBRN terrorism agents shall be immediately retired after confirmed exposure and shall not be subjected to cleaning. CBRN contaminated ensemble elements shall be doffed as soon as possible, using universal precautions, bagged, and disposed of as a hazardous waste in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Ensemble elements used in hazardous materials incidents shall be subject to preliminary exposure reduction and assessed by the Incident Commander. If cleaning is not possible, the ensemble elements must be disposed of as hazardous waste in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
- Where multiple forms of contamination are present, the hierarchy of actions for handling, cleaning, and disposition of ensemble elements shall be according to the contamination posing the highest risk.
- Personnel shall utilize universal precautions at all times when handling contaminated PPE.

Post Incident Decontamination

906.6 APPENDIX

Appendix A



Note: Contaminants shown in relative hierarchy of exposure risk. Multiple forms of contamination might apply. Clean according to highest risk.

Appendix B

