

Gross Decontamination on the Fire Scene



A. Purpose

This Order will provide a procedure that will remove the harmful chemicals and carcinogens that are accumulated through fire extinguishment and overhaul through on scene gross decontamination.

B. Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Command and/or the Safety Officer to ensure that any necessary decontamination of firefighters and 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 ASAP.

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

C. Equipment Needed

1. 5-gallon bucket
2. Baby wipes
3. Garden hose to 2 ½" adapter
4. Garden hose
5. Nozzle or wand
6. Dawn dish soap
7. Heavy duty brush
8. Heavy duty large trash bags

D. Procedures

Individuals performing the decontamination should wear at the minimum eye protection, a 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, facepiece, and regulator.
7. Wash your SCBA tank and connections.
8. While removing your facepiece be careful to keep it from any contaminated areas on your gear.
9. Wipe your face and hands off with baby wipes.

Dry Decontamination Procedures

During cold 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 firefighters facepiece to suspend any particulate matter.
3. Attempt to remove all of the visible contaminants.

Post Activity Decontamination On Scene

1. Individuals should wear eye protection, minimal 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 off.
4. All PPE should be placed in a trash bag in order to reduce contamination of the interior of the apparatus.
5. Wipe your face and hands off with baby wipes.

Gross Decontamination Bucket Items

