

**REDMOND FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES**

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS – 008

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2016

**DECONTAMINATION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
FIRE OR LOW LEVEL HAZARD SITUATIONS**

FIRE CHIEF: TOMMY SMITH

Purpose: To establish guidelines for the appropriate decontamination of personal protective equipment (PPE) after exposure for post fire decontamination of hazardous substances. Failure to properly decontaminate personal protective equipment can increase an individual's adverse long- and short-term health risk potential due to continued exposure to chemical byproducts produced in fire or chemical release situations.

Originator: The Deputy Chief of Operations shall be responsible for the content, revision, and annual review of this instruction.

Procedures:

1. As a general rule, whenever a firefighter or civilian has been, or will be, exposed to a hazardous substance; i.e., substances that present an unusual risk to persons due to properties of toxicity, chemical activity, corrosivity, etiological or similar hazards, a decontamination area will be established within the ICS structure.
 - a. The decon area shall be established upwind and uphill of the "hot" zone (area requiring use of respiratory and PPE protection) as practical.
 - b. The decon area shall be located in the warm zone and in the proximity of the rehab area. The decon area will have as a minimum the following stations:
 - 1) Equipment drop
 - 2) Wash/rinse (Gross Decon while wearing gear and facepiece/SCBA)
 - a) wash/rinse with low pressure water for facepiece prior to removal.
 - 3) SCBA bottle drop
 - 4) SCBA bottle replacement

Haz-mat situations require an extensive multi-step process. See Eastside Haz-Mat protocols for detailed explanation. See SOP Emergency Operations - 005, Predetermined Action Plans, Item #5 Haz-Mat.

- c. Entry or exiting from the decon area shall be restricted and controlled with perimeter tape and choke points.
- d. Personnel performing decon shall have an appropriate level of PPE for the involved hazardous substance. For fire situations full bunkers with gloves should be sufficient. If hazardous materials are involved in the incident, haz-mat personnel and resources shall be used to determine appropriate PPE. At a minimum, SCBA shall be used and, if available, Tyvek suits will be considered.

- e. Efforts shall be made to contain run-off of the water used for decon if known hazardous substances are involved.
2. The decon process is a multi-phase process.
 - a. Rough (field) Decon: Process at the incident site to remove or neutralize gross contamination. Example: rinse facepiece and PPE with a detergent solution or water.
 - b. Complete Decon: Process used to completely clean the PPE and equipment. Usually accomplished using fire department extractors or at an appropriate laundry facility.
 3. Rough/Field Decon Process (Fire or Low Level Hazard Situations)
 - a. Rinsing of SCBA facepiece and regulator assembly must take place immediately upon arrival at decon site and prior to removing facepiece.
 4. Complete Decontamination of PPE (Fire or Low Level Hazard Situations)
 - a. Contaminated PPE should be field decontaminated prior to transport back to fire department facilities.
 - 1) If contamination occurred by exposure to a known or suspected hazardous chemical, consultation with haz-mat personnel shall take place prior to transporting the PPE back to fire department facilities.

If contaminated PPE or equipment must be transported back to the facility, it shall be sealed in a plastic bio-waste or chemical disposal bag.

If the PPE cannot be adequately decontaminated, it shall be treated as hazardous waste and preferably left at the incident site. Material left at the incident site becomes the responsibility of the owner or occupant. Materials removed from the incident site potentially become a fire department liability.
 - b. Cleaning procedures of PPE at the fire department facility should follow the guidelines (recommended cleaning procedures for protective turnout clothing and station uniforms) which referenced in the Safety Standards for Firefighters, WAC 296-305.
 - c. A complete inspection of PPE should follow any decontamination and cleaning process. The inspection shall follow the manipulative performance test and be inspected by department certified PPE inspectors.
 5. Complete Decontamination of PPE (Laundry Facility)
 - a. All PPE will be washed, inspected, and repaired semi-annually by the appropriate laundry facility. You will be notified when the semi-annual washings will occur. The Chief Purchasing Officer will facilitate PPE cleaning, repair and replacement.
 - b. Your name will be indelibly marked on the inside of your PPE and liners.

- c. Any PPE that has been contaminated and falls under the guidelines of bloodborne pathogen must be handled as a bio-waste hazard. This gear must be double bagged in a bio-waste bag and delivered to the appropriate laundry facility informing them of the type of contamination.
- d. Any PPE that has been exposed to Asbestos should refer to the Asbestos Exposure During Emergency Incidents (Safety SOG-003)