GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICTS #2 AND #4

SHARED SERVICES PROGRAM

JOINT TACTICAL CONSIDERATION

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">TITLE:</td><td colspan="4" rowspan="2">POST-FIRE DECONTAMINATION</td><td>NEW</td><td>REVISED</td></tr>
<tr><td>X</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">ORDER #:</td><td colspan="2">J.O.G. 23-01</td><td>Initial Issue Date:</td><td>8/1/2023</td><td>Revised Issue Date:</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">Approved by Fire District #2:
Chief Michael Millisky
Chairman George Genzel</td><td>Date:
7/12/23</td><td colspan="2">Approved by Fire District #4:
Chief Joseph Cipriano
Chairman David Vannoni</td><td>Date:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="2">REVIEW SCHEDULE:</td><td>3 MONTHS</td><td>6 MONTHS</td><td>1 YEAR</td><td>2 YEARS</td><td colspan="2">OTHER</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td colspan="2">And As Needed</td></tr>
<tr><td>Related Policies</td><td colspan="7">N/A</td></tr>
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1. Purpose

This Joint Tactical Consideration document establishes steps to help decrease members exposure to cancer causing agents as a result of products of combustion.

2. Scope

This document applies to all fire suppression members of a fire company authorized to operate within the districts, all career firefighters employed by the districts and any other fire suppression personnel approved to temporarily function as a member of a fire company or unit operating under the authority of the districts.

3. Post-Fire Decontamination Considerations

3.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1.1 The fire suppression personnel including on-scene Incident Commanders, all fire officers, and all acting fire officers are responsible for ensuring that all fire suppression personnel are aware of the contents of this document and are encouraged to adhere to the procedures described herein.

3.1.2 All non-supervisory fire suppression personnel are also responsible to review the procedures described in this document, and to understand that failing to follow them can increase the members' exposure to carcinogens, increase cancer risk, and may cause second-hand exposure to the members' co-workers and family.

3.2 PROCEDURES

3.2.1 The procedures in this document include:

1. Gross Decontamination
2. On-Scene PPE Doffing Procedure
3. In-Station Personal Decontamination
4. Other measures to help reduce in station exposures

3.2 .2 ON-SCENE GROSS DECONTAMINATION

1. Gross Decontamination on-scene is a critical part of cancer prevention. Turnout gear most actively off-gasses immediately after exiting the fire and consequently, this is the most dangerous time to remove your regulator or face piece. Gross decon reduces off gassing and hereby reduces our exposure to inhaled toxins and carcinogens.

2. Once water supply has been established, the Chauffer of the first arriving Engine/ Squad should establish the Gross Decontamination Area near the entry/ exit point, at least 50' away from the apparatus, downwind and downhill, if possible, before crews exit the Hot Zone.

3. The Chauffer should set up the gross decontamination area with the following:

A. Traffic Cone**s**
B. Soft-bristle brush
C. Forestry Line with combination nozzle
D. Spray bottles with approved soapy solution

4. Turnout gear actively off-gases when members leave the fire occupancy; therefore, all members should leave the hot zone with enough air to complete gross decontamination.

5. During this process, members should not remove their regulator or facepiece until they have completed decontamination to prevent inhalation exposure of off-gassing contaminates from turnout gear.

6. Members exiting the Hot Zone should decontaminate each other.

3.2.3 WET GROSS DECON PROCEDURE

1. Members should perform gross decontamination on their gear by using the following method:

A. Stay on air and do not remove regulator or facepiece.
B. Loosen helmet strap and let the helmet hang on the back of your neck.
C. Hold collar tightly closed around neck to keep water out.
D. Your partner will rinse you off starting from your head down to the boots using a gentle stream with copious amounts of water from the forestry line.
E. Using a Soap and water solution (2Tbs soap to 1 gallon of water), completely spray each part of the turnout gear ensemble, hand tools/ equipment and scrub with soft-bristle brush.
F. Rinse the solution off using low-pressure clear/clean water.
G. This WET GROSS DECONTAMINATION procedure should be conducted in warm weather operations. Wet decontamination is 85% effective in removing PAHs.1.

H. Members shall never use compressed air to remove large dirt particles from any part of their turnout gear or SCBA as it could embed the soot and particulates into the fabric or cause them to become airborne.

3.2.4 **DRY DECON PROCEDURES**

1. During cold weather operations, dry brushing should be conducted to remove the toxic products of combustion.
2. Dry decontamination is 23% effective at removing PAHs.1.

3.2.5 **PPE DOFFING PROCEDURE**

1. All members should perform the following methods for doffing of PPE:

A. Remove structural gloves and use medical examination gloves for the remainder of doffing.
B. Remove Helmet.
C. Remove SCBA regulator and facepiece.
D. Remove hood quickly to reduce the spread of contaminates to your face and neck.
E. Remove SCBA
F. Remove turnout coat.
G. Clean inside of your helmet with wipes.
H. Clean face, neck, arms, and hands with approved cleaning wipes.
I. Remove pants after all other cleanup is completed.

3.2.6 **POST ON-SCENE DECONTAMINATION**

1. After on-scene gross decontamination and before eating or drinking, wash hands with soap and water. In lieu of soap and water, use disposable wipes for face, neck, and all areas of exposed skin, and hand sanitizer for hands at the end of suppression activities including overhaul and before returning to living quarters. Using wet wipes can reduce PAHs by 54%.1

3.2.7 **IN STATION PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURE**

1. Upon return to the station, all members should immediately begin personal decontamination by following these procedures:

A. Decontaminate the interior of the apparatus immediately after a fire.
B. Ensure showering (in as cold as tolerable water) is completed within the hour of the exposure.
C. Change into a clean station uniform.
D. Contaminated station uniforms shall be washed separate from other laundry or bagged in a clear trash bag until such cleaning can be completed.
E. Personal Protective Equipment shall be separated and washed in approved gear washer and dryer following the steps provided for such appliances.

3.2.8 **IN STATION MEASURES TO HELP REDUCE EXPOSURE TO CANCER CAUSING AGENTS**

1. All members should take the following into consideration to ensure reducing the carcinogens within the station:

A. Do not take contaminated PPE or station uniform home or store in lockers or vehicles.
B. Open all bay doors or use a mechanical exhaust system when apparatus is entering or exiting the station to facilitate diesel exhaust removal.
C. Perform vehicle and equipment checks outside of the station when weather permits or while connected to a mechanical exhaust system in cold weather.
D. No idling in apparatus bay unless mechanical exhaust system is in place.
E. Keep all turnout gear out of living and sleeping area.
F. Keep doors between the apparatus floor and any other part of the building closed and limit the amount of traffic through these doors as much as possible.
G. Wash hands frequently throughout the shift.

3.3 EXPOSURE REPORTING

3.3.1. Following fire activities, exposure reporting is necessary to document exposures that can lead to occupational diseases and cancer

3.3.2 The National Fire Operations Reporting System (NFORS) Exposure Tracker is available as an app for fire fighters, paramedics or officers to log exposure and incident details in a private, encrypted and secure online environment. The information gathered will help researcher**s** better understand toxic exposures on the fire scene and develop new treatments and prevention protocols for occupational diseases, including cancer.