

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

40.03.15 POST ACTIVITY DECONTAMINATION



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/18/21
Revised: 11/18/21

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Pahl".

Purpose: To establish methods for reducing firefighter's exposure to hazardous substances during training, suppression and overhaul activities, and to ensure that clothing, tools and equipment are decontaminated prior to returning to quarters.

References: WAC 296-305-8000 Appendix C Decontamination; NFPA 1851

Procedure:

Operational Decontamination.

1. All members will be decontaminated, when practical and when it does not delay essential operations, after exiting a fire area prior to removal of their SCBA face piece.
 - a) The Attack Engine Operator will establish a dedicated decontamination line to be used for crews exiting the hazardous area.
 - b) After exiting the hazardous area, personnel will perform gross decontamination, taking care to remove all loose particulates from protective clothing and tools.

2. Dry decontamination procedures may be used when wet methods have potential to create additional safety problems due to cold weather.
 - a) Brush off all large particles with a hand broom.
 - b) Use damp towels to wipe the area around the firefighter's mask and face piece to suspend any particulate matter.
 - c) A significantly exposed firefighter may be too dirty for dry decontamination procedures and should therefore be decontaminated utilizing the wet procedures.

3. Turnout Gear Decon Bag.

The District has purchased TRUE NORTH Turnout Gear Decon Bags to place all of your structural firefighting PPE in after being exposed in any hazardous environment. These bags have been placed on all structure engines in the District. The purpose of the bag is to limit exposure to the carcinogens in our gear when returning from a fire or hazardous condition. The TRUE NORTH Turnout Gear Decon Bag is designed to contain soiled turnout gear and prevent carcinogens on personal protective equipment (PPE) from migrating to the apparatus cabin until all the gear is safely cleaned. Refer to OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVE #11.10.2021.1 for the instructions on their use.

Post Activity Decontamination.

1. Body wipes are provided on each apparatus.

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- a) Remove as much soot as possible from the head, neck, jaw, throat, under arms, and hands immediately while still on the scene.
2. Upon returning to the station, personnel should shower and wash turnouts in accordance with SOP 40.03.03 Laundering and Care of Protective Turnout Clothing as soon as practical.