



Manhattan Fire Protection District

SOP #: 200-3	Effective Date: 06/17/16 Revision Date:
Section: Protective Clothing and Equipment	
Subject: Firefighter Safety / Cancer Risk Reduction	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this procedure is to outline procedures to reduce Firefighter exposure to chemicals and carcinogens. The Manhattan Fire Protection District recognizes Firefighter Cancer and other health concerns related to firefighting is becoming a real a growing threat to the personal health of firefighters. Studies have correlated increased cancer risk to firefighters much greater than that of general population. As an effort to reduce potential exposure and risk, the following actions are to occur.

SCOPE:

This procedure shall apply to all members of the Manhattan Fire Protection District.

DEFINITIONS:

None

GUIDELINE:

It is recognized that the full scope of the cancer problem is not fully understood, the following recommendations are based from current best practices in the fire service.

At the Fire Station:

- Ensure proper use of diesel exhaust contamination removal systems. Efforts should be made to reduce time that vehicles are running inside of the building.
- Keep turnout gear out of living / office areas.
- Do not walk in living / office areas with dirty boots or gear after a fire.
- Use nitrile gloves when cleaning / maintain dirty tools / equipment
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling tools/equipment, dirty uniforms, or Personal Protective Equipment.

At the Fire Scene:

- Wear all Personal Protective Equipment properly
- Use SCBA from initial attack through completion of overhaul
- Perform gross decontamination at scene (It is understood that in cold weather the application of water on gear may be counterproductive. Attempt to get as much debris off as possible):
 - o Gently rinse or brush off fire soot and debris
 - o Use a hose-line if needed to remove contaminants
 - o If possible, dirty gear should not be kept in vehicle interior/crew compartment.
 - o Use wet naps to clean hands, neck, throat, face, and jaw after fire operations are complete.

After the Fire:

- Clean all Personal Protective equipment including helmets, hoods and gloves in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines. Nitrile gloves should be worn while handling dirty gear (Oncoming shift may be responsible for completing this process for off-going members).
- Contaminated hoods may be exchanged with the PPE Coordinator for a clean one. It is recommended that hoods are washed regularly.
- Clean tools and SCBA. Wear nitrile gloves
- Clean interior of fire apparatus cab with appropriate disinfectant. Wear nitrile gloves.
- Shower as soon as possible and change into clean clothes.
- Do not take dirty personal protective equipment or dirty work clothes home or in your personal vehicle.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

Each member shall take every precaution necessary to reduce the risk of contamination/exposure to carcinogens and other hazardous materials/products.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This SOG is to be followed for any type fire where PPE and or personnel have been exposed to carcinogens. These include, but are not limited to, structure fires, vehicle fires, and dumpster fires. Company Officers have the responsibility and authority to determine when this SOG needs to be utilized for units returning to full in-service status.

This SOP may require Change of Quarters Companies hold in our quarters until companies are back in service. The coordination of holding Change Companies is to be conducted by the Duty Officer or a designee.

Approved by:

Signature: *Daniel Forsythe*

Date: *06/17/2016*