



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS ONLINE LEARNING MODULES

FIRST RESPONDER OPERATIONS, UNIT 2C: ROUTINE PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION: GETTING CLEAN AND STAYING HEALTHY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This module describes when and how first responders should decontaminate after routine calls.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Describe the difference between HazMat Decontamination and Routine Personal Decontamination.
- List the steps for Fire Fighter Field Decontamination.
- List the steps for EMS Provider Field Decontamination.
- List the decontamination steps all responders should take upon returning to the station.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Routine personal decontamination is a simple process that takes just a few minutes.
- Practicing good decontamination procedures will protect you, your crew and your family from secondary contamination.
- Decontamination should be practiced after EVERY encounter with smoke, soot, ash, body fluids, or chemical contaminants.
- To perform personal decontamination in the field, fire fighters should:
 - Leave the hazard area
 - Brush off solid contaminants
 - Rinse from head to toe with a low-pressure hoseline
- To perform personal decontamination in the field, EMS providers should:
 - Clean up the response scene
 - Remove PPE
 - Wash hands
- Back at the station, fire fighters and EMS providers alike should:
 - Thoroughly clean gear, PPE and vehicle interior
 - Remove any contaminated clothing; launder at station
 - Take a personal hygiene shower (fire) / thoroughly wash hands (EMS)
 - Put on a clean uniform
 - Complete an exposure report