

# CLEAN CAB CONCEPT



This factsheet was developed by the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.

Harmful chemicals can be inadvertently transported from the fire scene to the fire station via contaminated PPE and tools used on the fire ground. This leads to cross-contamination and exposes fire fighters to secondary exposures.

The clean cab concept limits potential contaminants from the crew area. Many departments have adopted this concept and now exclude all tools and SCBA from the cab.

Apparatus should be designed with careful thought to prevent biological and chemical contamination and potential for cross-contamination. The cab of the apparatus should be kept free of toxins, both on hard and soft surfaces as well as in the air.

**Bottom line: ALL GEAR IN CAB MUST BE CLEAN, INCLUDING SCBAs.**

## NEW EQUIPMENT DESIGNS FOR CLEAN CABS

- Floors
  - Smooth, seamless, non-porous waterproof flooring for ease of cleaning
- Seats
  - All seat material should be backed with vinyl or other material that reduces absorption of toxic materials and are easier to clean.
- Ventilation and Air Flow
  - Filtered ventilation systems provide a clean air environment.
  - On the fireground, the AC system will go into circulation mode to prevent contaminants from being pulled into the cab.
  - Windows automatically roll up when placed in pump.
- Equipment
  - No dirty or contaminated equipment is to be placed in the cab of apparatus.
  - Contaminated equipment (SCBAs, fire hose, contaminated PPE, etc.) should not be brought in the cab of the apparatus until the equipment has been properly decontaminated. This may involve arranging transportation for the contaminated equipment from the fire incident to the fire station for proper decontamination.
- Decontamination: Fire Fighters and Apparatus
  - Apparatus could be adapted with a warm water outlet, which provides a personal washing station or for hand washing.
  - Be mindful when designing the compartments that are located over or near diesel exhaust. Have the exhaust exit where fire fighters are not likely to pull equipment while the vehicle is operating.
  - All interior material used in the cab should be easily cleaned and designed to repel moisture. The material must also be durable enough to be cleaned weekly with disinfecting agents and/or soap and water.
  - A policy should be in place that allows for the cleaning/decontamination of the cab frequently and after returning from every fire incident.



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## TURNOUT STORAGE

- All apparatus should have a designated PPE compartment that is separate from the cab.
- No contaminated turnouts/equipment should be allowed in any apparatus cab.
- After an incident or training that involves contamination, all turnouts should be grossly decontaminated on scene, encapsulated in a designated disposable bag and transported to a fire station for proper cleaning. Contaminated gear should be transported in an outside compartment – never in the cab of apparatus.
- No SCBAs, Irons, thermal imaging camera, etc., in the interior of the cab. The exception to this is turnout gear that has been cleaned in accordance with department policy and manufacturer recommendations.
- SCBAs and turnout PPE should have their own compartment away from the passenger compartment. SCBAs that are designed to be mounted in the seats should come with provisions for decontamination and cleaning prior to replacing that equipment back in the passenger compartment.