



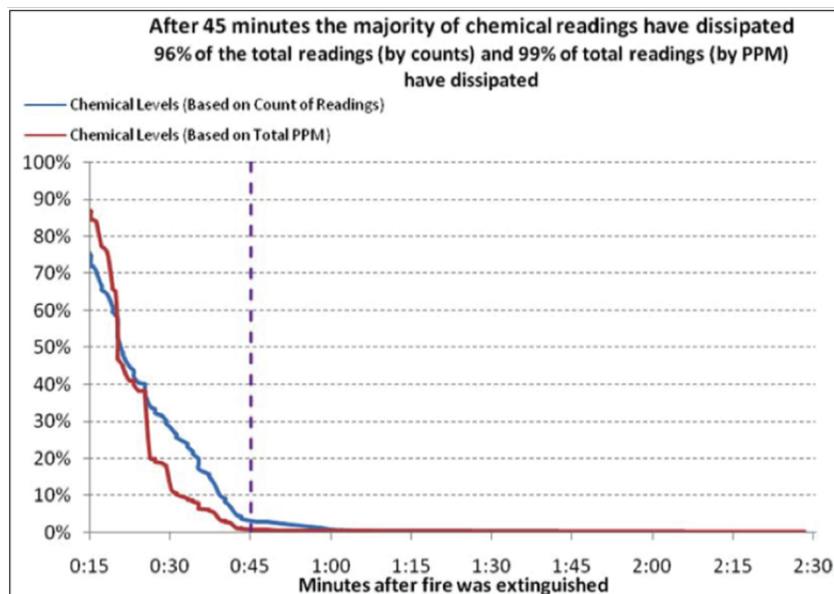
Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention



Offgas Timeline

When is it safe to perform overhaul?

Research shows that there is a drastic reduction in chemicals in the air when increasing the time after fire suppression and before performing overhaul, as this allows a structure to cool and offgas. During this time, members can perform rehab and rehydrate as the scene transitions to overhaul and fire cause investigation procedures.



Allowing time for the structure to offgas without fire fighters in the building will reduce the level of contaminants in the atmosphere. The report from Pinto and Batts demonstrates how allowing 45 minutes to rehab and rehydrate, clean equipment and deliver the plan for overhaul will result in the majority of toxic gases and particulates to dissipate.¹

This time can also benefit those responding to the fire as the 45 minutes will allow them to rehydrate, cool down and seek any medical attention to prevent heatstroke, treat smoke inhalation and prevent heart attacks.

While waiting those 45 minutes, it is important to keep an eye on the structure for reignition. When it is time for overhaul, crews will be refreshed and able to work for the duration of the incident. It is also important for all members to remain on air.

Sources:

1. Pinto, Michael; Batts, David. Understanding the Hazards of Fire Residue Encountered During the Restoration Process. Institution of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification. https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/434512/Understanding_the_Hazards_of_Fire_Residue_Restoration.pdf. December 2015.