



# Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness and Prevention



## TRAINING BRIEF

### Preliminary Exposure Reduction

#### Gross Decontamination

#### DISCUSSION

**Fact:** Doing a wet decon with soap or an effective NFPA 1851 certified cleaner can reduce PAHS on PPE by 85%.

Using wet wipes to wipe down all exposed areas of skin reduces PAHS by 54%.

#### Key Points:

- Never transport contaminated PPEs in cab of apparatus.
- No contaminated equipment should be stored inside the cab of apparatus.
- Shower within the hour.
- Perform personal hazard reduction whenever exposed to the products of combustion.
- Wear SCBA from the start of the fire through overhaul.
- Do not transport contaminated PPEs in your personal vehicle to your home.
- Have a second set of clean PPE.
- PPE that is considered contaminated must be washed in an extractor (use your department's or an ISP to do the cleaning).

#### Action:

We have the ability to control and reduce the amount of chemicals and toxins that we are exposed to on the fireground, thereby, reducing our risk of cancer. Take action to reduce your exposures. If you smell smoke, consider yourself exposed.

**Step 1:** Set up decon area marked with a road cone and decon bucket.



**Step 2:** Existing crews stay on air and perform decon as a crew. Personnel with the lowest air supply are deconned first. Spray down with low flow water. Use soap and scrub off particulates, and products of combustion. Do not saturate the turnouts. Include the bottom of the boots as well.



**Step 3:** Designate a doffing area for contaminated PPE. Bag up and seal all PPE. Do not transport contaminated PPE in passenger area of apparatus; use an outside compartment if possible.



**Step 4:** Use wipes on all exposed areas of skin. Proceed to rehab for nourishment.



**Step 5:** It is recommended to shower within the hour and change into a second set of clean PPE.

