

East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District



SOP 808 Post Fire Hygiene and Cancer Prevention

Implementation Date: 12/30/2016

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Forms or Attachments: None

As firefighters, we are at a greater risk than the general population for developing many types of cancers. The mere fact that the environments we are required to work in can be extremely hazardous and potential exposure is a great concern. This procedure was created to outline what is expected of our firefighters in order to decrease the potential exposure to cancer causing environments and identify the post fire procedures that we are implementing in order to protect our members.

“Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health of our nation’s firefighters” (FSCN, 2013). **The chart below compares the risk differences between firefighters and the general population.**

Testicular cancer	2.02 times greater risk
Multiple Myeloma	1.53 times greater risk
Non-Hodgkin’s Myeloma	1.51 times greater risk
Skin Cancer	1.39 times greater risk
Prostate Cancer	1.28 times greater risk

Source: Firefighter Cancer Support Network, 2013

Each member of the East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District is required to follow this SOP and exercise judgment while implementing this procedure. The company officer will see that this procedure is followed, and all measures taken to minimize the risk of exposure to our personnel. The department will continually evaluate this procedure in order to provide current and updated information to our members.

The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District recognizes that our members are the greatest asset in our organization, and in order to protect our members we are implementing the following procedures:

Actions at Incident Scene: Incident is defined as the time any East Lake firefighter arrives on the scene of an incident that exposure concerns may be prevalent.

- No firefighter shall leave the scene without completing gross field decontamination when appropriate.
- All equipment will be washed off prior to leaving the scene and the soap carried on the apparatus will be used if required.
- Members assigned to wash the equipment are required to wear gloves in order to prevent their hands from becoming contaminated.
- All members will wear their structural firefighting gloves or other approved glove while handling any fire hose.
- All firefighters will cleanse all exposed skin with the “anti-septic” wipes that are provided on our units.
- All firefighters will appropriately rehab. (no bunker gear is permitted in rehab area)
- Any gear that was required to be gross decontaminated on scene, with the exception of duty shoes/boots, will be placed in plastic bags before being placed back in apparatus.
- Duty shoes/boots shall be gross decontaminated before entering apparatus.

Actions at the Fire Station

- All fire hose that was used on the scene will be cleaned with a soft bristle brush and mild soap; then it will be rinsed with clean water.
- Any gear that was required to be gross decontaminated on scene will be removed from the apparatus and the employee will switch into their “back-up” gear.
- Any gear that may have been contaminated at the scene; including helmet, SCBA mask, bunker jacket, pants, fire and extrication gloves, hoods, fire boots, duty shoes/boots, station uniforms must be cleaned according to manufacturer’s requirements.
- When cleaning any equipment, the firefighter will wear latex gloves at a minimum.
- Remove any loose equipment and wash with water, mild soap, and a soft bristle scrub brush if necessary. Use caution and good judgment when cleaning your air packs (see below for cleaning procedure).
- Assure each firefighter is given time to properly shower and change uniforms. Consideration of response needs shall be evaluated in order to insure this step does not delay other emergency responses to excessively.
- Any area in the apparatus that may have been exposed to contaminated PPE, including floors, compartments, and seats, will be cleaned with department approved disinfectant product.

Scott SCBA Cleaning Procedure

1. Brush off any loose material from the air pack and bottle
2. Spray soap solution from spray bottles in all areas of the equipment
3. Wipe down all components with a sponge
4. Spray water from bottle to remove the soap from the equipment and dry with a towel

Scott SCBA Regulator Cleaning Procedure

1. Spray regulator with the Disinfecting cleaner on the outside and inside of regulator
2. Swirl cleaner around on the inside of the regulator and then let it sit for 2 minutes
3. Use spray bottle with water to wash out the disinfectant solution
4. Shake regulator out to remove excessive water and moisture
5. Allow to air dry

Scott AV 3000 HT SCBA Mask Cleaning Procedure

1. Use same procedure as above for cleaning air pack; you may use a soft bristle brush to scrub the head harness on the SCBA mask
2. Rinse soap residue with clean water from spray bottle and dry with a towel