

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.627	Effective Date:	4/30/2020
Title:	Dry Decontamination & Transport	# of pages:	1
Category:	Hazardous Materials Response	Classification:	Red

1. PURPOSE:

2. **PROCEDURES:** A Dry Decontamination should be considered whenever the temperature is below 35°F and may be used for any minor incidents such as “white powder” events. The process of Dry Decontamination involves removal of the outer layer of clothing and using techniques such as blotting visible contamination with the inner surfaces of thicker clothing such as coats or using paper towels, pre-treated wipes, and/or newspapers. Under extreme circumstances when proper resources are not available, consideration for use of natural resources such as sand, dirt, grass, leaves and snow may be considered. The removal of the outer clothing alone will remove most of the contamination assuming winter dress.

Due to response time and the time required to set up the decontamination process and equipment, Dry Decontamination is the most readily available method to quickly reduce contamination and exposure. If, upon arrival, victims are presenting symptomatic they must be directed by first responders to begin removing outer clothing and assisting each other as necessary in blotting visible agent.

Patients will then be moved to the nearest warm area available for wet decontamination. Consider the chemical agent and the necessity for rapid decontamination in addition to available resources when selecting the wet decontamination site.

Please refer to the SPFD FOG regarding dry decontamination procedures.

3. REFERENCES:

By Order Of:



James P. Wilson
Fire Chief