

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.255	Effective Date:	1/11/2021
Title:	Weekly Apparatus Decontamination	# of pages:	3
Category:	Safety	Classification:	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** To set clear expectations concerning cancer awareness and prevention. This guideline will establish procedures for performing actions to limit carcinogen / toxicant exposures by:

- Reducing firefighter exposure to hazardous substances while operating in department apparatus.

2. **POLICY:** It is the responsibility of all SPFD personnel to understand and follow the approved guidelines / procedures within this Standard Operating Guideline (SOG). It shall be the responsibility of each officer to implement this guideline, assure the SOG is adhered to, and train to the standard of this guideline.

3. **PROCEDURES:**

Overview:

Structure fires have become known as hazardous materials events due to the materials involved and the contaminants which firefighters are exposed to. Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of firefighters. Multiple studies have shown credible evidence of statistically higher rates of cancers in firefighters compared to the general American population. In all 10 types of cancer, firefighters have a 14% higher risk than the general population.

The two exposure routes of greatest concern for carcinogens entering the bodies of firefighters are:

- The lungs; when firefighters do not wear or prematurely remove their SCBA.
- Dermal absorption; where toxicants are absorbed thru the skin. Absorption rates increase 400% for every 5° increase in body temperature.

Decontamination Schedule

- **Post Structure Fire Decontamination:** All Apparatus where firefighters were actively participating in interior operations and where exposed to potential carcinogens will be decontaminated using the procedures listed in this SOG immediately following the return to quarters.
- **Weekly/Monthly Decontamination:** Regardless of whether there has been a structure fire in the prior week all front line staffed apparatus shall be decontaminated using the procedures listed in the SOG every Sunday. Each Reserve Apparatus and Call Company Apparatus will be decontaminated at least once a month. The house Captain will develop a schedule and ensure compliance with the SOG.

Procedure

- Apparatus cabs shall be cleaned using the approved cleaning solution. This will include:
 - Grab rails
 - Seats, seat backs & SCBA housing
 - SCBAs
 - Flat surfaces (doghouse, dashboard, etc.)
 - Floors, steps & tread plates
 - Exterior Compartments where PPE is stored
- Cleaning will be done using approved department cleaning solution (currently DECON SE7EN)
 - Vacuum area to be cleaned
 - Pick up loose items and remove from cab
 - Spray area to be cleaned with cleaning solution (very lightly cover area more in not better)
 - Wait 10 minutes
 - Wipe down any residue in area once time line has elapsed (there really shouldn't be any)
- Equipment:
 - All equipment should be cleaned outside weather permitting
 - Any equipment used should be cleaned with soap and water prior to being placed back in service on the truck
 - SCBA bottles should be decontaminated and cleaned according to manufacturer specifications
 - SCBA harnesses should be decontaminated and cleaned according to manufacturer specifications
 - All contaminated hose should be cleaned outside in accordance to manufacture specifications.

4. REFERENCES:

- Decon7.com
- National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, (NIOSH)
- National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA)
- International Association of Firefighters, (IAFF)
- International Association of Fire Chiefs, (IAFC)

By Order Of:



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