



**UNIFIED FIRE AUTHORITY
OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

Affiliation: Command Guidelines

Subject: Emergency Decontamination

Number: 450-12

Approved: 10/29/2020 By: AC Stephen Higgs

Last Reviewed: 12/08/2025 By: Capt. Chad Green

PURPOSE:

To provide expectations and best practices for Ops level personnel for emergency decontamination of responders and civilians who have been exposed to hazardous materials.

OVERVIEW:

All Hazmat incident operations should include an appropriate Decon Line for responders prior to entry into the Hot Zone, and a separate line for patients/victims. Responders should be prepared to create separate decontamination lines for responders, non-ambulatory patients, and members of the public who have been exposed to hazardous materials.

PROCEDURE:

Ops level personnel can be assigned to assist in the setup of Decon lines, as well as with the decontamination process, of responders and/or contaminated patients/victims.

1.0 Emergency Decontamination

Emergency decontamination can be performed by Ops personnel prior to HM Team arrival if needed for immediate life safety and/or signs of emergent medical care.

1.1 Considerations:

1.1.1 Use of full PPE/SCBA

1.1.2 Use of a hose line with fog nozzle on medium/wide fog pattern set to a low pressure (PDP). Modulate pressure to avoid knocking people over or injuring them.

1.1.3 May be necessary to have patient undress or to undress unconscious patient. Try to protect modesty.

1.1.4 If possible, decon in an area where runoff can be controlled or contained. Life Safety takes priority over environmental issues.

1.1.5 The intention of emergency decontamination is to immediately protect the lives and health of exposed individuals. Responders should not consider contaminated victims to be fully decontaminated after emergency decontamination. Try to keep people in an area of safe refuge within the warm zone until technical decontamination can be completed.



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- 1.1.6 Be sensitive to environmental factors. Keep victims warm, shaded, and protected from the elements. Provide shelter and protect modesty with blankets or sheets until adequate clothing can be provided. Be aware that media will be present.