

Operating Guideline

James City County Fire Department

Revised: August 2016

Revision Due: August 2017

CANCER RISK REDUCTION

PURPOSE

The Cancer Risk Reduction guideline is designed to reduce the risk of acute and chronic occupational exposure to carcinogens and other toxins. This document establishes procedures to be implemented to reduce exposure to hazardous substances during fire suppression activities and while in the station.

POLICY

Effectively managing the risks to both known and suspected carcinogens and other toxic substances requires an organization-wide effort to include leadership, management, supervision, accountability, and personal responsibility. All Officers of the organization shall be responsible for implementing the procedures outlined in this guideline.

PROCEDURE

Procedures are separated into two subcategories: In-Station Procedures and On-Scene Procedures.

ON-SCENE

- Use Self Contained Breathing Apparatus from the initial attack to completion of investigation if necessary per the Respiratory Hazard Protection guideline.
- Recognize the need for decontamination.
- Utilize positive pressure decontamination upon exiting an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health environment.
- Perform gross field decontamination of PPE to remove any known or potential carcinogens (see Training Bulletin) Utilize hand wipes to remove products of combustion from the head, neck, jaw, throat, under arms and hands immediately on scene.
- Rinse all hose, tools, equipment, and SCBA before placing back on the apparatus.

IN STATION

Personal Protective Equipment shall be laundered and dried as soon as possible; however, no later than the end of the work day in which it was exposed to a hazardous/toxic environment per the Maintenance and Cleaning section of the PPE guideline.

- Shower thoroughly after exposure to products of combustion.
- Change to a clean uniform and wash contaminated uniform immediately after a fire.
- Do not take contaminated PPE or work uniforms home or store in vehicles.
- Decontaminate apparatus interior immediately after a fire.
- Open all bay doors when apparatus is entering or exiting the station to facilitate diesel exhaust removal.
- Perform vehicle checks outside of the station; including running of small equipment.
- No vehicle idling in the apparatus bay.
- Utilize a water hose to rinse apparatus floors. In consideration of storm water pollution prevention, all petroleum based products must be removed from the floor prior to rinsing floors. Only when necessary, utilize a forced air blower. If a blower is used, wear a particulate mask and have all apparatus floor doors fully opened.
- Keep doors between apparatus floor and living spaces closed and limit traffic through these doors as much as possible.
- Wear work gloves when necessary and wash hands frequently.
- Use Sunscreen as needed.