



# The Training Brief

Quick Reference mini-training Topics

## Clean Cab Concept

*The purpose of this training topic is to identify the strategies to keep the Interior compartment free of toxic contaminants that can migrate to the station and even our home locations after a fire incident*

### Discussion

**Fact:** Harmful chemicals can be inadvertently transported from the fire scene to the fire station from contaminated PPE and tools used on the fire ground. This leads to cross contamination and exposes firefighters to secondary exposures.

**Key Points:** Apparatus should be designed with careful thought given to biological and chemical contamination and the potential for cross-contamination. The cab of the apparatus should be kept free of toxins, both in the hard and soft surfaces as well as in the air.

**Action:** SCBA's and turnout PPE should have their own compartment away from the passenger compartment. SCBA's that are designed to be mounted in the seats should come with provisions for decontamination and cleaning prior to replacing that equipment back in the passenger compartment.

**Make the necessary changes!**

*New Equipment Designs for Clean Cabs are considered for personnel safety.*

- Smooth non-porous waterproof flooring for ease of cleaning contaminants
- All seat material should be backed with vinyl or other material that reduces absorption of toxic material and are easier to clean.
- Apparatus could be adapted with a warm water outlet which could provide a personal washing station or for hand washing.
- Be mindful for designing the compartments that are located over or near diesel exhaust. Or have the exhaust exit where firefighters are not likely to pulling equipment from while vehicle is operating.

### Apparatus Interior Design:

- All interior material used in the cab should be easily cleaned and designed to repel moisture. They must also be durable enough to be cleaned weekly with disinfecting agents, soap and water.
- Contaminated equipment (SCBAs, fire hose, TICs, etc.) should not be allowed in the cab of the apparatus until the equipment
- has been properly decontaminated. This may involve arranging transportation for the contaminated equipment from the incident to the fire station for proper for decontamination.
- As a **best practice**, groceries should not be routinely transported in fire department apparatus due to potential cross-contamination. Because this is a common practice while working 24-hour shifts, a designated cooler or insulated zippered container can be used to minimize cross-contamination.

### Apparatus Turnout Storage:

- All apparatus should have a designated turnout compartment that is separate from the cab.
- Turnouts should not be routinely allowed in the cab of the apparatus with the exception of responding to emergencies or participating in trainings.
- No contaminated turnouts/equipment should be allowed in any apparatus cab.
- After an incident or training that involves contaminants, all turnouts should be grossly decontaminated on scene, encapsulated in a designated disposable bag and be transported to a fire station for proper cleaning.