



# The Training Brief

## Quick Reference mini-training Topics Command Vehicle Safety

*The purpose of this training topic is to understand the scope of the occupational cancer and to limit your risk of cancer as it relates to Command Vehicles.*

### Discussion

**Fact:** All personnel assigned to a fire can be exposed to products of combustion including known carcinogens. Studies have shown that personnel that are not involved in active firefighting show increased levels of heavy metals in their bodies.

**Key Points:** Command Staff (Battalion Chief, Division Chief, Operations Chief, Fire Chief) can often find themselves on-scene of fires, or other emergency incidents.

**While on-scene of fires and emergency incidents everyone can be exposed to products of combustion and known carcinogens.**

**Action:** The incident command post should be set up away from smoke and products of combustion and away from diesel exhaust as a best practice.

Any personnel exposed to products of combustion as a best practice perform a Preliminary Exposure Reduction onscene including the use of wet wipes. Store your PPE in a sealed plastic bag outside of the passenger compartment until the PPE has been cleaned.

Shower within the hour after a fire incident.

**Make the necessary changes**

*A study out of the Tucson Fire Department and the University of Arizona have noted all personnel can be exposed to carcinogens while on-scene. This includes personnel that did not participate in the active firefight, such as Engineers and Command Post staff.*

*Below are a few simple steps that can be taken to limit the exposure to personnel assigned to Command vehicles.*

#### Prior to Incident:

- 1) Store your turnouts and safety gear (SCBA) outside of the passenger compartment. (If there is no space outside of the passenger compartment, store your safety gear and turnouts in a sealed bag.)
- 2) Clean the interior passenger compartment on a consistent basis. This will reduce exposure from diesel particulates and other cancer causing contaminants.

#### During the Incident:

- 1) Park your vehicle far enough away from the emergency to limit your exposure from products of combustion as well as diesel exhaust.
- 2) Park your vehicle up-wind from an emergency incident to limit your exposure.
- 3) Leave your passenger windows up to limit exposure to the passenger compartment
- 4) Utilize the re-circulate button on the A/C so the vehicle does not bring smoke filled air into the passenger compartment.
- 5) If your PPE is exposed to smoke or products of combustion, perform a Preliminary Exposure Reduction onscene including the use of wet wipes. Store your PPE in a sealed plastic bag outside of the passenger compartment until the PPE has been cleaned.

#### Post Incident:

- 1) Shower within 1 hour of your release from the incident.
- 2) Clean your PPE and/or change your PPE to a second set for the remainder of the shift.
- 3) Document your exposure for future reference.

Source: <http://www.tucsonfirefoundation.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/2017-Cancer-manual.pdf>