



The Training Brief

Quick Reference mini-training Topics Cancer Prevention in the WUI Environment

The purpose of this training topic is Cancer prevention in the Wildland WUI environment

Discussion

Fact:

Cancer prevention needs to occur in the Wildland WUI environment. It is very difficult to accomplish. Taking the small steps as outlined can help to reduce your exposures.

Key Points:

Following best practices as outlined in this training brief.

Wildland firefighters are at an increased risk of mortality from smoke exposure.

The risk increases with career duration and days spent on wildfire incidents.

Action:

Following the steps outlined in this briefing will help reduce exposures while working in the wildland WUI environment.

Make the necessary changes

Wildland/ WUI fires create unique environments that can make it difficult to protect personnel from toxic exposures through inhalation, absorption, or ingestion. These environments can result in higher than normal levels of exposure, for extended periods of time, with lightweight PPE and little or no respiratory protection. These incidents make it difficult to remove or reduce contamination on our tools and equipment in a timely fashion, shower within the hour, or to follow other contamination reduction best practices.

Onscene best practices:

- *Park vehicle upwind, uphill.*
- *Keep vehicle windows rolled up while onscene of fire incidents.*
- *Use recirculated air in apparatus.*
- *Respiratory protection: Using a particulate blocking filter mask (N95) can reduce harmful particulate exposures. These masks do not protect from toxic gases in smoke.*
- *All personnel should wear eye protection.*
- *Personal wipes for decontamination should be available for personnel at the incident.*
- *All personnel can use discharges from engine companies to wash as needed.*
- *Personnel should avoid wearing soiled or contaminated PPE inside the passenger compartment when possible.*
- *Wash your hands or use personal wipes prior to eating, drinking, or voiding.*
- *Shower in base camp whenever possible.*
- *Utilize laundry facilities at base camp for laundering PPE when possible.*

Post Incident Best practices:

- *Wash your hands or use personal wipes prior to eating, drinking, or entering living quarters.*
- *Keep contaminated gear away from eating/sleeping zones.*
- *Do not transport contaminated gear or PPE within apparatus.*
- *Follow clean cab suggestions to keep passenger compartment free of contaminants.*
- *Provide plastic bags to transport contaminated gear.*
- *Upon returning from incident, decontamination and clean PPE, tools, and equipment per department SOP.*