



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE Independence, MO Fire Department

Number	<u>218</u>
Effective Date	<u>10/21/2020</u>
Revised	<u>03/06/2023</u>

FIREFIGHTER CANCER PREVENTION

I. Purpose

Firefighters are at risk for developing certain types of cancer at higher rates than that of the normal population. The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide steps and procedures that firefighters can use to reduce the threat of developing cancer in the course of their duties.

II. Scope

To include all employees of the Independence Fire Department.

III. Policy

It is the policy of the Independence Fire Department to provide its members with the appropriate personal protective equipment, gear, tools, and training, to enable them to complete their assigned mission in a controlled and safe manner. The Independence Fire Department also agrees as a prescient to join the Missouri Fire Fighters Critical Illness Pool program and to immediately implement and maintain through the course of participation in the Cancer Award Program the below actions.

IV. Procedure

The following actions should be taken by members of the Independence Fire Department in order to protect their future wellness.

A. On the Fireground

1. Use your SCBA from initial fire attack through completion of overhaul. The most dangerous voluntary activity in the fire service today is not wearing your SCBA in both active and post-fire environments.
2. Conduct gross decontamination of your PPE to remove as much soot and particulates as possible.
3. Use Wet-Wipes to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jawline, throat, underarms, and hands immediately and while still on the scene.
4. Change out your hood with a clean one from the Shift Commander on scene, or as soon as possible within the shift after clearing the scene.

B. Prior to Returning to Quarters

1. Prior to returning to quarters, remove all bunker gear and place directly on the floor of the apparatus to facilitate easier decontamination of the inside of the

FIREFIGHTER CANCER PREVENTION

apparatus. Instead of leaving your shoes in the station when responding to a call, take them with you in the apparatus for use after doffing your PPE at the incident scene.

C. Upon Arrival in Quarters

1. Decontaminate apparatus interior after fires.
2. Decontaminate SCBA with mild detergent and rinse with water.
3. Clean your PPE, gloves, hood, and helmet immediately after a fire. Turnout gear will be washed in an extractor to provide enhanced level of decontamination of carcinogens.
4. Change your clothes and wash them immediately after a fire.
5. "Shower within an hour". Shower thoroughly after a fire.

D. General Safe Behaviors

1. Attach the "Plymovent" exhaust removal system to the apparatus when in the station.
2. Keep EMS equipment and PPE items away from diesel exhaust.
3. Do not take contaminated clothing or PPE home or store it in your vehicle.
4. Keep all PPE out of living and sleeping quarters.
5. Do not wear your bunker gear unless responding to an emergency. The exception would be to wear CLEAN PPE for demos, etc.
6. Use sunblock on any skin exposed to sun.
7. If not already, work on becoming tobacco-free.
8. Receive thorough annual medical examinations to establish baseline conditions and to enable early detection.
9. Use multiple gas detectors to determine PPE/SCBA donning and doffing.
10. The Independence Fire Department will make every effort to provide 2 sets of turnout gear to provide for proper washing and drying time of gear.

FIREFIGHTER CANCER PREVENTION

E. Documentation

1. When you have been working on an incident where there is the potential of exposure to cancer-causing by-products, be very thorough and specific in documenting this through the department's incident reporting system. Documentation should include all actions, actual or potential exposures, all PPE used while working on the incident through overhaul, and all decontamination operations including the appropriate PPE cleaning operations upon return to the station.

AUTHORITY:

From and after their effective date, procedures issued by the Independence Fire Department will be in full force and effect and will set forth all of the rights and duties of the employees of the Independence Fire Department with respect to the subject matter thereof, and will replace any and all previous procedures or understandings, whether written or oral, relating thereof.



Douglas Short
Fire Chief