

<b>TITLE</b> OPERATIONS MANUAL	<b>STANDARD</b> <b>INSTRUCTION</b> 10		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE-RESCUE
<b>SUBJECT:</b> INJURY AND ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM: PERSONAL DECONTAMINATION	<b>SECTION</b> 16C	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 2	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> 21 November 2022

**I. PURPOSE**

This policy outlines the personal decontamination process required of all personnel after any fire incident where contamination occurs.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all sworn San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel, including Lifeguard Boating Safety Unit members.

**III. AUTHORITY**

The fire chief authorizes the information within this policy.

**IV. POLICY**

- A. Dermal absorption of fire contaminants is high during firefighting activity.
  - 1. Research indicates that for every 5 degrees in body temperature elevation, skin absorb up to 400% more contaminants.
- B. Personnel operating on fire incidents must begin personal decontamination as soon as reasonable on scene.
- C. Personal decontamination can occur throughout a fire incident and again immediately after gross PPE decontamination.
- D. Personal decontamination consists of the following
  - 1. On-scene personal decontamination with decontamination wipes
  - 2. Hood exchange
  - 3. Hand washing
  - 4. Clothing change after gross decontamination
  - 5. Showering
- E. On-Scene personal decontamination
  - 1. Use department provided soap and/or decontamination wipes
  - 2. Avoid eating and/or drinking prior to personal decontamination
  - 3. Use decontamination wipes on all areas of the body, with emphasis on hands, face, neck, under-arms and groin.
  - 4. Use as many clean new wipes as necessary
    - a. Dermal contamination may not be visible on either the skin or the wipes
- F. Hood exchange
  - 1. After exposure to smoke and contaminants, personnel are to replace their flash hood during periods of down time while waiting for another assignment or getting a replacement SCBA bottle.
  - 2. Before donning a new hood use decontamination wipes to clean hands, neck, and face.

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3. Engineers can proactively assist in the personal decontamination process by securing the hood exchange kit.
- G. Hand washing
1. Proper hand washing prevents cross contamination during and after firefighting operations.
  2. Keep your hands away from face, especially eyes, nose and mouth.
  3. Use department provided decontamination soaps and/or wipes.
- H. Clothing change after gross decontamination
1. All personnel are to keep a clean change of clothes (class B, C or D) with them on the apparatus to change into after gross and personal decontamination.
- I. Showering
1. The most important component in the personal decontamination process.
  2. Contaminated crews are to remain out of service for “fire decon”.
  3. Chief and company officers have the authority to send crews back to quarters to shower.
  4. After a marine firefighting incident, marine safety lieutenants and lifeguard sergeants have the authority to send crews back to the Boating Safety Unit (BSU) to shower.
  5. All crews are to shower immediately upon return to the station or BSU.
  6. Use department provided decontamination soap and shower for 10 minutes.
  7. Apparatus and equipment rehabilitation should occur after personnel showering.