

Green Township Fire & EMS

Standard Operating Guideline

606.00

Post Fire Decontamination



Effective Date: May 4, 2017

Revision Date:

Approved By: Chief Douglas Witsken

Purpose

This standard operating guideline shall provide Green Township Fire & EMS personnel with a systematic procedure for decontamination of personnel, equipment, and personal protective equipment (PPE), *after* fire details. In an effort to combat the incidence of cancer in our profession, Green Township Fire & EMS has identified specific actions needed. Most of these actions are “common sense” issues that should be done routinely. Other actions will require that we re-think how things have been done in the past. This guideline is to ensure the good health and well-being of each member of our department.

Scope

After a fire, proper decontamination may be necessary to reduce the risk of exposure to products of combustion and other contaminants. Personnel shall take all measures necessary to protect themselves and others from the products of combustion or other contaminants. Company officers should determine if decontamination is needed based upon the level of exposure, but must consider it after any of the following:

Structure Fires

Training Fires (Live fire training, flashover)

Hazardous Material Incidents

Vehicle Fires

Dumpster Fires

Vegetation and Wildland Fires

Technical Rescue Emergency

Vehicle Extrication

Other incidents deemed necessary

Safety Precautions

All personnel who enter the hazard zone with the potential of coming in contact with the products of combustion or an IDLH atmosphere shall wear a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).

Any time personnel expect to be exposed to long periods of sun they should use sun block on uncovered skin.

Procedures

The Incident Commander (IC) should designate a decontamination area after the “loss stopped” benchmark is reached. All personnel exposed to the products of combustions or other contaminants shall rotate through the decontamination area. Affected mutual aid companies should be included in this procedure.

Each Green Township Fire Apparatus will carry a decontamination bucket which should be utilized in the decontamination area. (See Equipment Section).

PPE should be decontaminated in the following manner:

- All loose debris shall be brushed off with the hand brooms.
- Wet decontamination is required anytime gear is exposed to products of combustion or other contaminants, or if a fire officer deems it necessary. Ideally, this should be completed before leaving the scene.
 - Rinse at a downward angle from top to bottom using garden hose.
 - Areas of PPE with visible contaminants shall be washed with brushes using Simple Green (or equivalent). Boots shall be washed with Simple Green and water.
- Exposed skin areas of the body (neck, face, wrist, etc.) should be wiped off during decontamination, utilizing the wipes provided by the department.

Spare gear may be put into service upon return to the station. Each set of PPE shall be washed as soon as possible according to department guidelines.

Fire gear shall not be worn in the front seat of the ambulance.

Fire gloves shall be worn while loading hose or cleaning equipment at the scene. EMS gloves shall be worn when cleaning equipment at the station.

All **fire equipment** shall be *grossly decontaminated* at the scene, but thoroughly cleaned upon return to the station. Fire equipment includes, but not limited to the following items:

SCBA (includes face piece)

Radios & radio straps

All hand tools

Nozzles

Hose

Back at Fire Station

Bunker gear is not permitted in the working areas or living quarters of the fire station.

Wash all PPE immediately.

Assure the replacement of all contaminated hoods and gloves

Used hoods and gloves shall be washed and placed back in the spare supply.

Using a solution of warm water and Simple Green:

Wipe out the floors of the apparatus.

Wipe all seatbelts and seats exposed to contaminated turnout gear.

Clean all contaminated fire equipment

Clean all SCBA face masks according to department SOG.

Wash apparatus.

Minimize the time contaminated station wear is worn in the station.

After all equipment and supplies are replaced, personnel shall shower and put on clean uniforms.

Avoid the use of personal vehicles when relieving contaminated companies on scene.

Fire Investigators

Fire investigators shall adhere to the same procedures as listed above.

The fire investigation vehicle (5360) shall have one decontamination bucket. It is the responsibility of the lead fire investigator to make sure everything is properly decontaminated.

Fire investigator's PPE and equipment shall be turned in to the nearest fire station for proper cleaning if he/she is not on duty.

Off-duty fire investigators (or other personnel) are encouraged to carry extra clothing, and to shower at the fire station before returning home.

Equipment

Each Green Township Fire apparatus shall carry a 5 gallon decontamination bucket and lid, with the following items:

- 1 soft brush
- 1 hard brush
- 1 long hard brush (in engineer's compartment)
- 1 10' section of garden hose
- 1 bottle of Simple Green
- 2 packs of body wipes
- 1 bottle of sun screen
- 1 box of EMS gloves
- 1 roll of white trash bags