<u>Please contact the Health and Safety Section for further information and resources if you have any questions.</u>

PURPOSE

This policy outlines fire apparatus cross-contamination reduction and decontamination cleaning methods.

Effective Date: 3/24/2021

POLICY

- A. Avoiding cross-contamination and cleaning are progressive steps in the cancer prevention model.
- B. Keeping the cab interior free from contaminated personal protective equipment (PPE), tools, and equipment will reduce off-gassing toxins and provide an overall healthier work environment.
- C. An environment free from known carcinogens and other toxins significantly reduces exposure and may lessen the chance of developing cancer and/or any other disease processes.

PROCEDURE

- A. During firefighting operations, personnel shall employ clean cab principles, which include:
 - 1. Keep apparatus windows rolled up during fire operations.
 - 2. Do not wear contaminated PPE inside any fire department vehicle unless specific firefighting tactics require it (for example, the use of "bump and run" tactics) and/or an emergency incident dictates.
 - 3. Engage in Post Fire Gross Decontamination (PFGD) methods after every fire incident.
 - i. Crews are to carry a clean uniform (class B, C, or D) to change into after PFGD.
 - ii. Store dirty PPE remote from the cab.
 - 4. All firefighting equipment normally secured in the interior of the fire apparatus will be decontaminated thoroughly before being placed back into the cab interior.
 - 5. Upon return to the station and after personal decontamination has been completed, both the interior and exterior of the apparatus are to be cleaned using the department-supplied cleaner.
 - i. The inside of the apparatus is to be vacuumed thoroughly while wearing an N-95 or HEPA-filter mask.
 - ii. All surfaces are to be wiped down with soap and water or department-supplied cleaner.
 - iii. DO NOT "blow out" the inside of the apparatus or exterior compartments using compressed air.
 - iv. The exterior of the apparatus is to be thoroughly washed to remove all soot and ash.
- B. Additional Considerations

Revised 3/24/2021 Page 1 of 2

- 1. On every emergency incident, any vehicles and/or apparatus not directly supporting the operation will be turned off to reduce the exposure to known carcinogens (diesel exhaust and benzene).
- 2. PPE transport in personal vehicles
 - i. Avoid transporting or storing PPE inside your personal vehicle.
 - ii. PPE should be placed in a large trash bag and sealed if it must be in the interior of a personal vehicle.
 - iii. Utilize trunk space and bed space for storage and transport.

Effective Date: 3/24/2021

- iv. PPE is to be cleaned before transport.
- 3. Personal are to never launder PPE outside of department-approved locations.
- 4. Home washing machines and public laundry facilities are not approved for PPE laundering.



Revised 3/24/2021 Page 2 of 2