

# City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 3026

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department that standard procedures be followed for decontamination of personnel, PPE and all equipment at fire scenes involving combustibles.

**Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect:** April 11, 2019

**Date S.O.G. Revised:** April 11, 2019

**Date Committee Approved S.O.G.:** May 29, 2018

Page 1 of 4

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## GUIDELINE

1:00 **Purpose:**

1:01 To reduce the risk of contamination to personnel exposed to products of combustion through inhalation, ingestion and skin absorption at fire suppression scenes.

2:00 **Procedures:**

2:01 **Fire Scene**

2:02 All personnel who have completed their tasks and are exiting a building after they have been involved in fire suppression, search and rescue, etc and exposed to smoke shall proceed to the decontamination area. Every individual shall remain “on air” until the decontamination process has taken place.

THIS GUIDELINE IS NOT EXPECTED TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND EXPERIENCE UNDER UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

# City of Belleville Fire Department

- 2:03 The driver of the pump, as time permits will set up the decontamination area that will be located a safe distance from the scene, apparatus and away from the rehab sector. The decontamination area will consist of a 50'-1 ½" hose line with nozzle set to flush and low pressure and a decontamination bucket (which includes rescue decon wipes, medical gloves, N95 masks, approved spray bottle of soap/cleaner, plastic bags, tarps, scrub brush and nozzle). The designated decontamination area will be identified by a green traffic cone.
- 2:04 The team of firefighters that have exited the building shall remain on air and use the decontamination hose line to rinse each other off. It is advisable to have the person with the lowest amount of air go first. The process to be used is rinsing from shoulders down to the boots (helmet, balaclava and mask must remain on and will be cleaned after). The person being rinsed off should loosen their SCBA straps and extend their arms outward. The rinsing process should ensure that all items of PPE and SCBA are completely rinsed including the bottoms of their boots. Once rinsed off, they should switch and the other person should be rinsed down. For heavily soiled areas, the soap/cleaner and scrub brush can be utilized.
- 2:05 Once each firefighter has been rinsed off they should proceed to begin removing their PPE and SCBA and placing on a tarp. The steps to this are as follows:
- Remove firefighting gloves and don medical gloves to protect skin from absorbing contaminants. It is best practice to use medical gloves during all steps of the decontamination process.
  - Remove regulator from face piece
  - Remove helmet, mask and balaclava.
  - It is recommended to use a N95 mask at this point to eliminate any inhalation of airborne contaminants.
  - Remove SCBA and place on tarp
  - Weather permitting, doff bunker coat and pants to allow coat and pants time to off gas.
  - Utilize decon wipes for a cleaning of the head, neck, ears, face, hands and any other exposed skin areas.
  - Using the decon wipes, clean the helmet liner and SCBA facepiece. It is also advisable to wipe the exterior of the helmet to remove as much contaminant as possible.
  - At this time, only personnel who have undergone the decontamination process may proceed to Rehab.
  - If re-assigned (ie. Salvage and overhaul), then the decontamination process shall be repeated when the assignment is complete.

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# City of Belleville Fire Department

- If released from scene, Bunker coat, Bunker pants, gloves, Helmet, Face piece and Balaclava shall be placed in a plastic bag and a knot tied in the neck of the bag to contain contaminants. Place the bagged PPE in a side compartment of the apparatus. If personnel is still in service, the PPE is still available to be used if needed before returning to the hall.
- All other contaminated equipment shall be rinsed at the scene prior to replacing on the apparatus. **NO** equipment shall be placed inside the cabs of any apparatuses or support vehicles.
- If possible, all other equipment such as fire hose, etc should be rinsed at the scene to remove as much contaminate as possible.
- Fire hose and SCBA's shall be transported in an open cargo service vehicles (eg. Truck 719) to avoid contamination of the other apparatuses.

## 2:06 Station 1

### 2:07 **Note: It is best practice to wear medical gloves and an N95 mask while being in contact with contaminated PPE, etc.**

All personnel with soiled PPE shall proceed to station 1 to get an exchange of replacement bunker gear, gloves, balaclava and a helmet liner. Remove helmet and face piece from the bag of soiled gear, remove helmet liner and leave in bag of soiled gear and thoroughly clean helmet and face piece as per instructions. Replace the helmet liner with a clean spare one.

2:08 Each person shall empty their bag of contaminated PPE onto the floor in an open air portion of the apparatus bay (Do Not use the Washing Machine area to do this step). Separate the inner and outer shells into 2 piles. Place the balaclava and helmet liner with the inner liner of the Bunker gear. Place gloves and DRD (drag rescue device)/ suspenders into the pile with the outer shell of the bunker gear. Place 4-5 pieces of the outer shell (ie: 2 pants and 2 coats plus gloves/suspenders) into a clear plastic bag and tie. Place 4-5 pieces of the outer shell (ie. 2 pants and 2 coats plus balaclavas and helmet liners) into a clear plastic bag and tie. Take the bags and place in the washing machine area and leave tied up.

2:09 Contaminated PPE that has been separated, bagged and placed in the washing machine area is now ready to be laundered. Before loading any contaminated PPE into the wash machine ensure that medical gloves and an N95 mask are worn. Untie the bag, place bag and contents into the wash machine and then remove the bag leaving the contents inside the wash machine. Then follow the SOP #200-319 for proper cleaning procedures.

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## City of Belleville Fire Department

- 2:10 As soon as possible, all personnel who have been in a contaminated environment, shall upon returning to the station, shower, change into clean station wear and wash their soiled clothes.
- 2:11 All other equipment (SCBA's, hose, tarps, etc) should be cleaned, dried and returned to service as soon as possible. It is recommended that an N95 mask and medical gloves be worn during any decontamination and cleaning process to protect your respiratory system and skin.
- 2:12 If any apparatus has been contaminated, a thorough cleaning should be performed.
- 3:00 **Scope:**
- 3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.
- 3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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