Grant County Fire Protection District 3

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

TACTICAL ACTION GUIDELINES

1. NUMBER: 9.1.17

2. SUBJECT: Fire Suppression Gross Decontamination (On Scene)

3. POLICY: Gross/field decontamination shall be conducted as outlined in this guideline whenever personnel have been exposed to IDLH atmospheres during firefighting suppression operations. Firefighters should not remove their respirators until gross decon procedures are complete. This process reduces secondary exposure risk to personnel, equipment, and the public. This Policy and Procedure is established to define that process.

4. SCOPE: This Policy and Procedure is applicable to all personnel of the Grant County Fire District 3.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES:

   A. The District Fire Chief or designee is responsible for ensuring that this Policy and Procedure is adhered to.

   B. Incident Command and Company Officers are responsible for ensuring gross decon procedures are implemented on scene when firefighters are exposed to IDLH atmospheres during firefighting suppression operations.

   C. All personnel are responsible for cooperating with and assisting in gross decontamination procedures when directed.

6. PROCEDURE:

   A. Establish Gross Decon Area
      1. Designate a safe location upwind and uphill from the hot zone when possible.
      2. Set up tools: charged hose line, bucket of soapy water, decon brushes.

   B. Initial Rinse
      1. Perform a low-pressure, high-volume water rinse starting at the head and working downward.
      2. Maintain SCBA on and regulator connected during rinse.

   C. Physical Wash
      1. Use soft-bristle brushes and mild soap/detergent when available.

2. Scrub from top to bottom, paying special attention to high-contact areas (gloves, knees, boots, helmet, SCBA pack). Wash and rinse any tools used by the firefighter if appropriate as well.

D. Final Rinse
   1. Conduct a thorough rinse with clean water, again from head to toe.
   2. Ensure all visible debris and soap are removed.

E. Controlled Doffing of Gear
   1. After rinse, assist the firefighter in removing SCBA and outer PPE in a systematic manner.

F. Returning from Scene & Follow-Up
   1. Place as much contaminated PPE in apparatus compartment as possible for the return trip.
   2. Decontaminate all tools used during fire suppression efforts.
   3. Wash all PPE garments in the extractor upon returning to the station following Policy 9.1.10.
   4. Wash SCBA and components upon returning to the station following Policy 9.1.5