

Clean Cab Concept SOP template. This is a sample policy for the clean cab concept. Modify as needed to meet local needs. Version: 06/01/2020.

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for all fire department members to follow which will assist fire department personnel in protecting themselves from potential toxins and carcinogens by minimizing exposure from cross contamination through maintaining a “clean cab” environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies apply to all members of the <Anytown> Fire Department who respond to fire and other emergency incidents.

PROCEDURES

I. Definitions

Clean Cab Concept – a model where the cab of the apparatus or passenger compartment of the vehicle is kept as free as possible of carcinogens and toxins by keeping items that have been exposed to carcinogens, toxins, and chemicals out of the cab or passenger compartment. Simply put, anything that goes into an IDLH atmosphere does not go into the cab.

Firefighting Equipment – Any piece of equipment that is carried on an <Anytown> Fire Department apparatus.

Full Turnout Gear – Helmet with eye protection, fire retardant helmet liner, and chinstrap; turnout coat; turnout pants with suspenders; bunker boots; NFPA compliant fire gloves; and protective hood. Also known as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) – any condition that poses an immediate or delayed threat to life, may cause irreversible adverse health effects, and/or may affect an individual’s ability to escape unaided from a hazardous environment.

II. Apparatus

All apparatus includes the following: engines, aerial trucks, tankers, brush trucks, rescue trucks, support vehicles, staff vehicles, fire investigator vehicles, and utility vehicles.

- A. Position apparatus to minimize exposure to smoke and other contaminants.
Position apparatus and vehicles upwind if possible. Vehicle doors and windows

shall remain closed unless in use.

- B. Any equipment used within the IDLH environment shall not enter the cab of any vehicle. Contaminated turnout gear (PPE) shall be stored outside of the cab. Seal the contaminated turnout gear in a minimum of a six (6) millimeter thick plastic bag.
- C. All equipment used within the IDLH environment shall be properly decontaminated at the scene, if possible, or at the fire station. After returning to the station, personnel shall take appropriate steps to decontaminate themselves before placing the apparatus back in service.
- D. Before placing equipment back in-service on the apparatus, it must first be properly decontaminated. The member in charge of the apparatus is responsible for ensuring that the clean cab SOP is followed.
- E. Two sets of tools and flashlights are placed on each apparatus. One set is for use in an IDLH atmosphere. The set of tools and flashlights marked with green tape is for use in non-IDLH atmospheres.
- F. Small tools, flashlights, axes, Halligans, thermal imagers, extinguishers, or any other equipment that enters an IDLH atmosphere shall not be mounted in, or brought into, the cab.
- G. Where possible, SCBA shall be stored in exterior compartments. If this is not possible due to the design of the apparatus and lack of exterior compartment space, cleaned and decontaminated SCBA shall be allowed in the cab when covered by a plastic bag.
- H. Clean turnout gear is allowed in the cab. Clean turnout gear is defined as gear that has been cleaned according to NFPA 1851 and/or manufacturers recommendations in a gear washer extractor. Grossly decontaminated turnout gear is not allowed in the cab.
- I. All members should assemble and maintain a personal "go-bag" with a clean uniform that can be accessed after any incident where they have been exposed to an IDLH atmosphere or harmful substances. Recommended items to include a complete work uniform, bathing articles (bath towel, soap, shampoo, etc.), undergarments, and socks. Contaminated uniforms shall not be transported in the apparatus cab or vehicle passenger compartment unless properly decontaminated.
- J. Apparatus cabs shall undergo a complete decontamination after any exposure or on a monthly basis.

III. Fire Stations

- A. Apparatus shall not be allowed to run at idle in the apparatus bays. Routine vehicle inspections and maintenance should occur outside the apparatus bay on the apron if the vehicle must be left running. The apparatus shall be a minimum of fifteen (15) feet from the bay opening and downwind of the bay opening if possible, to help keep the exhaust out of the apparatus bay.
- B. No PPE shall be present inside any living or training areas of the fire station. PPE shall only be present in the apparatus bay and designated cleaning and storage locations.
- C. All personnel shall shower within an hour of an exposure, if possible, and if not, as soon as possible thereafter, and then change into a clean uniform.

IV. Other Recommendations

- A. Do not take contaminated uniforms or PPE home, or store them in your personal vehicle. Research has shown that contaminated uniforms and PPE continue to off-gas for an undetermined amount of time. This off-gassing will expose personnel and anyone else near the contaminated items to carcinogens and other toxins that are still on the uniforms and PPE. When PPE must be transported or stored, place them in a protective case or bag to prevent cross contamination and off gassing.
- B. Every attempt should be made to wash contaminated uniforms at the station in department provided washing machines.