

	West Fargo Fire & Rescue Standard Operating Guideline			Authorized by:  D. Fuller Fire Chief
	Subject: CANCER PREVENTION POLICY			
	Section: SAFETY	Date Authorized:	Date Reviewed:	
	Number: 204	8/5/2015	11/1/2017	

**Intent**

The intent of this SOG is to address the unquestionable increased risk of occupational cancer of firefighters through the inhalation and adsorption of carcinogens in the fire environment.

**Guideline**

Every firefighter shall, upon completion of overhaul but prior to departure from the scene, use a baby-wipe or wet-knap to remove all soot or particles from the face, ears, head and neck, as well as hands and wrists along with any other areas of soot accumulation. These products will be stocked in Engine 7-0, Engine 7-1, Ladder 7-6 and Rescue 7-5. Plastic trash bags will also be stocked to collect the waste on scene.

All turnout gear, helmets, and SCBA will receive gross decontamination on scene with a hose line and plain water prior to being placed back on the apparatus. **If at all possible, crews should place contaminated gear in the storage areas of the truck rather than the passenger compartments.** Once at the station, technical decontamination will occur, using a mild soap and water mixture.

All protective hoods that are used in any environment where carcinogens can attach to the hood, ie: car fires, trash fires, outside fires, structure fires, shall be placed in the dirty hood hamper provided in the turnout rooms of both the Central Station and the Southside Station. Replacement hoods that have been properly laundered will be made available in the same locations. One Fire = One Hood.

All firefighters, upon completion of station duties, will shower within one hour using warm but not hot water and a mild soap. Extra attention should be paid to the armpits, head, neck, face, and groin.

All turnout gear will be washed every six months using approved detergent and cleaning procedures. Members are encouraged to wash their gear after every working fire.

The department shall provide respiratory protection in the form of SCBA for each member working in an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) environment. The SCBA shall be worn at all times in the building until the IC or Safety Officer allows for removal of SCBA. Indications for the removal of SCBA during overhaul include levels of carbon monoxide (CO) <35 ppm and hydrogen cyanide <4.7ppm.

In the event that particulate matter can be inhaled, such as operating in and around blown in insulation in walls and attics, especially in older structures, members will assume the material contains asbestos. The member will utilize an SCBA when operating in areas where it is more likely than not, based on age of the structure, that asbestos is present. In areas where modern insulation is present, members will use a full face respirator with a cartridge filter that allows for the most protection based on micron size.