



## PURPOSE

To provide a policy that requires air monitoring to change recommended PPE during the post structure fire phase in an effort to reduce firefighter fatigue while providing during overhaul operations and other hazardous conditions.

## POLICY

Fire, smoke and its many bi-products of combustion present a serious health risk to responders. Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) are deadly gases that can pose immediate and long term health effects to emergency responders if proper respiratory protection is not utilized. Safety of responders is the first priority, therefore Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) are required to be worn when conducting interior structural fighting fire, overhaul; investigation, or any other interior activity until a safe atmosphere can be determined by the use of quantitative air monitoring equipment.

It is the responsibility of all incident commanders and company officers to ensure all members are protected with the proper respiratory protection while working in hazardous conditions.

An SCBA shall be used during fire suppression and overhaul until such time that air quality has improved to a minimum of 20% oxygen, CO < 35 ppm and HCN < 4.7 ppm. Air-purifying Respirators (APR) shall be worn to perform overhaul after oxygen, CO and HCN levels are acceptable.

Any work conducted without respiratory protection shall be approved by the Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer.

1. Monitoring shall be performed before personnel will be allowed to perform overhaul without SCBA.
2. Recommended exposure limits:
  - a. Carbon Monoxide 35 PPM
  - b. Hydrogen Cyanide 4.7 PPM
3. The Incident Commander shall assign a Company to perform monitoring.
4. Monitor any area where personnel will be performing salvage/overhaul or other activities.
5. After the initial check, repeat every 10 - 15 minutes.
6. When using positive pressure ventilation (PPV) fans during overhaul, Companies shall be aware of increased CO levels.
7. Ventilate the structure with natural ventilation.
8. IF THE MONITOR ALARMS... SCBA IS REQUIRED.

At no time does this policy recommend or require personnel to not wear respiratory protection.

Approved

Fire Chief

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