



## TARRANT COUNTY FIRE & ARSON INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT:**

Decontamination

**SECTION: Safety****SECTOR:****PROCEDURE #:** 2020-03**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

January 06, 2020

**REVISION DATE / NUMBER:****1.0 Purpose:**

To establish a standard policy and procedures for decontamination after personnel have been engaged in fire investigation activities in order to reduce exposure to known carcinogens.

**2.0 Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of each member to adhere to all safety rules, regulations, and procedures set forth by the Tarrant County Fire & Arson Investigation Task Force.

**3.0 Policy:**

This policy shall apply to all incidents at which the atmosphere contains possible carcinogens as a byproduct of combustion.

**4.0 Procedure:**

- Prior to entering the fire scene, members shall ensure that all footwear is clean and not allow contaminants to be carried into the scene.
- A decontamination line should be established for cleaning of equipment and footwear prior to entering and when exiting the scene.
- When exiting the fire scene gross decontamination shall be accomplished.
- Typically a PPV fan can be utilized to remove the contaminated articles from clothing. Care should be maintained to protect the airway and eyes during use of a PPV fan.
- Upon removal of PPE, the member should utilize disposable wipes to remove excess dirt and debris from all exposed skin.
- Prior to leaving the incident, all PPE and contaminated equipment should be bagged, when possible, and placed into a sealed area where no further exposure can occur.
- It is the responsibility of each member to complete the decontamination of their issued PPE according to the guidelines set forth by their fire department.
- Every member bears full responsibility for adherence to this guideline.