**1.0 Purpose:**

To establish the procedures and policy regarding the utilization of respiratory protection (respirators) during fire investigations while functioning as a member of the Tarrant County Fire and Arson Investigation Task Force.

1. **Responsibilities:**

It is the responsibility of each member to supply an appropriate type/style respirator for their use when entering a fire scene in the course of the fire investigation.

**3.0 Policy:**

It is the policy of this organization that all members expected to respond and function in areas of potential hazardous contamination shall be trained in the proper use of the respirators. All personnel will utilize the respirators when operating in a hazardous or potentially hazardous atmosphere.

1. **Procedure:**
2. Each member shall, prior to entry into a fire scene shall don their respirator to prevent contamination from airborne particles. Each person will be responsible for the proper maintenance, use and function of the respirator.
3. It is the member’s responsibility to furnish appropriate canister/filters for the respirators. When contaminated the member shall properly dispose of the used canisters/filters.
4. Respirators shall be used by members operating:
5. In a contaminated atmosphere.
6. In an atmosphere which may become contaminated.
7. If there is any doubt about respiratory safety, SCBA use shall be maintained until the atmosphere is established safe by testing with an atmospheric monitor.
8. Atmospheric monitoring shall be conducted prior to and during investigation activities. If, at any time readings are equal to or above the readings below the member shall immediately exit the area and consider the use of an SCBA should it be necessary to re-enter before proper ventilation is completed.
9. CO – 35 PPM or above
10. H2S - 10 PPM or above
11. HCN - 4.7 PPM or above
12. LEL - 10% of the LEL or above
13. O2 – below 19.5% or above 23.5%

**5.0** **Definition:**

Each respirator shall protect from debris and materials that are larger than 0.3 microns or greater can be achieved with N100 and P100 respirators are ideal for dusty and oily applications. These respirators filter 99.7% of airborne particles. The "N" designation means that these respirators are not resistant to oil. The "P" indicates P95 respirators are oil proof and also protect from Formaldehyde.