

# STANDARD FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING PROCEDURES

**RECOMMENDED**

## HERE'S WHY

SCBA and facemasks should be worn throughout the entire firefighting process. Even when the fire is extinguished, carcinogens remain in the air – you still need respiratory protection to reduce your exposure.

**1** *Wear SCBA & mask from beginning of fire attack throughout overhaul*

## HERE'S WHY

Contaminated gear should be cleaned regularly, ideally after every working fire. Multiple sets of gear make regular cleaning and inspection more convenient and can reduce firefighters' occupational exposure to carcinogens.

**2** *Have more than one set of gear*

## HERE'S WHY

Diesel exhaust is a known carcinogen. PPE should not be stored in the apparatus bay where it is likely to be exposed to and contaminated by diesel exhaust.

**3** *PPE should be stored separately from the apparatus bay*

## HERE'S WHY

Fire smoke contains many carcinogens, so PPE should be washed and inspected after every fire, or at least at the end of every shift.

**4** *PPE should be washed after every fire*

## HERE'S WHY

Contaminated gear in apparatus cabs and personal vehicles increases firefighters' exposure to carcinogens. Gross decon at the scene to remove contamination, apparatus compartments that keep contaminated gear outside of the cab and airtight containers for transporting gear in personal vehicles are all ways to reduce occupational exposure.

**5** *Limit contaminated gear in apparatus cabs or personal vehicles after a fire*