

DERMAL DECONTAMINATION



Practices you can implement TODAY

Soap and Quarters: Provide laundry soap and quarters in a dedicated area within the vehicle cab of all apparatus.

Labels: Provide permanent labeling for all turnouts (tops and bottoms) which are unique to the owner. This will reduce laundering losses and mix-ups.

Dermal wipes: Provide pre-moistened wipes to all firefighters and make them available in the apparatus cab as well as mandatory inclusion in hot buckets and packs.

Hand washing and exposed skin washing: Require and provide regular opportunities for hands, faces, and necks to be washed with either soap and water or pre-moistened wipes before every meal break, rest periods, and before sleeping.

Future practices

Visible Recognition: Create and observable merit-based system compatible with regular laundering of PPE that allows firefighters to visually demonstrate their experience on the fire line.

Mandatory Laundry: Create and implement a policy that requires laundry facilities at all large-scale incidents that last more than 2 days and/or require that no PPE with occupational exposures be used a second time without proper decontamination; provide clean PPE for the next shift.

Wash Stations on Apparatus: Departments and Agencies should explore the opportunities to modify vehicles for wash stations and gross decontamination.

Clean Cab Practices: Develop clean cab protocols that are compatible with wildland/WUI to reduce overall occupational exposures (you can check out our wildland Clean Cab recommendations at www.wildfireconservancy.org)

Paid Decon. Time: Create a standard that pays firefighters for a discrete period of time dedicated to proper decontamination at the end of their shift. This encourages laundering, showering, and other basic occupational exposure reduction activities.

For more recommendations:
<https://wildfireconservancy.org>