



ABINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

OG - 600-205

FIREGROUND EMERGENCIES – FIRE INVESTIGATION EQUIPMENT DECONTAMINATION

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide direction in decontaminating suppression and investigation equipment used by Fire department personnel during structure fires, vehicle fires, miscellaneous fires, origin and cause determination and evidence collection; to prevent cross contamination of the scene and evidence collected.

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility to ensure that the above actions are taken in an appropriate manner are defined as indicated below:

- 2.1 Abington Township Fire Marshal
- 2.2 Abington Township Police Department
- 2.3 Applicable Outside Agencies.

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 Equipment (Allied equipment, evidence collection equipment)

3.1.1 Prior to returning to quarters, rinse all equipment used on scene with a garden hose allowing debris and loose contamination to run off. All wood handled equipment should be considered "one time use" as it is porous and may not be decontaminated effectively.

3.1.2 Once equipment has been rinsed, allow the equipment to soak in a 1:5 solution of Dawn dishwashing liquid and water for 30 minutes.

3.1.3 Re-rinse all equipment allowing debris and contamination to run off into an apparatus bay or floor drain. Dump solution used in Step 2 and rinse the bucket.

3.1.4 Place the equipment in a clean 1:5 solution of Dawn and water. Use a scrub brush to remove any remaining debris or contamination.

3.1.5 Re-rinse all equipment. Allow to air dry or dry by towel and place the equipment back in service.

3.2 Equipment (Salvage tarps, Covers, Hall Runners)

3.2.1 Prior to returning to quarters, rinse all equipment used on scene with a garden hose allowing debris and loose contamination to run off. Canvas tarps or salvage covers cannot be decontaminated by this method, see section 3.3 (Clothing)

3.2.2 Using a 1:10 solution of Dawn Dishwashing Liquid and water in a spray bottle, spray the entire surface of the salvage tarp, cover or hall runner. Use a scrub brush to remove any remaining debris and contaminants.

3.2.3 Re-Rinse the equipment. Allow equipment to air dry and place back in service.

3.3 Clothing (Non-PPE equipment, Non PPE Leather Gloves, Investigation Clothing)

3.3.1 Upon returning to quarters, rinse all clothing with a garden hose allowing debris and loose contamination to run off into an apparatus or floor drain.

3.3.2 Once clothing has been rinsed allow the material to soak in a 1:10 solution of DAWn and water for 30 minutes.

3.3.3 Re-Rinse all clothing/material allowing debris and contamination to run off.

3.3.4 Wash clothing in a washing machine as directed by the manufacturer. For leather goods Wash in a washing machine using cold water and mild laundry soap. DO NOT USE SOFTENER.

3.3.5 Dry clothing in a dryer as directed by the manufacturer. Leather goods and salvage covers should be air dried. DO NOT USE dRYER SHEETS OR FABRIC SOFTENER.

3.3.6 If rubber Bunker or Day boots have previously been used on a hazardous materials incident such as fuel leaks, or while fueling gas powered equipment, they should not be used for fire investigation as the rubber is porous and may have absorbed ignitable liquids leading to possible cross contamination.

4.0 Re-Entry Procedures

4.1 If re-entry is required at the scene of a fire investigation, boots and tools will be decontaminated prior to re-entry. The use of rubber/plastic boot covers changed on re-entry will be an acceptable level of decontamination to prevent cross-contamination. All personnel re-entering the scene will follow proper de-contamination procedures.

5.0 REFERENCES

5.1 All actions and procedures will be conducted utilizing guidelines established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and/or other applicable standards established following this plan.

NFPA 1033

NFPA 921