



ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedures 2.13 Post-Fire Decontamination



POST-FIRE DECONTAMINATION

Effective: April 3, 2026
Scheduled Review: April 3, 2029
Approved: Fire Chief Mike Kennedy

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidance for post-fire decontamination of employees and turnout gear to reduce exposure to hazardous contaminants.

II. DECONTAMINATION KITS AND CONTENTS

Decontamination kits will be stored on all engine companies. Kits will contain the following items and will be inspected during weekly apparatus inspections.

- 5-gal pail with lid
- Dish soap
- Scrub brush x 2
- Clear heavy-duty contractor garbage bags (6 mil, 42 gal) x 8

III. INCIDENT DECONTAMINATION

On-scene decontamination is dependent on numerous factors including outside temperature and weather.

When temperatures are above freezing, firefighters who are grossly contaminated should be sprayed off using a booster line. It is recommended that the contaminated firefighter be on SCBA supplied air while being sprayed off. Soap and brushes are available depending on the level of contamination. For fires involving thermal runaway of lithium-ion batteries, decontamination with soap water and brushes is recommended even if there is not visible gross contamination.

For employees assisting with decontamination, a minimum of gloves and an N-95 mask is recommended.

Contaminated turnout gear should be placed in a clear heavy duty garbage bag. If sealed in a bag, gear may be transported in the cab if another location is unavailable.

Any company whose gear has been bagged, that company is out of service until the company is able to obtain their secondary set and shower.

IV. TURNOUT CLEANING

Employees are recommended to wear gloves and an N-95 when handling contaminated gear. Gear shall be washed as soon as possible using one of the provided washer / extractors.