SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 400 ■ San Francisco ■ California ■ 94102

AGENDA

Item No.

1. ROLL CALL

President	Stephen A. Nakajo
Vice President	Francee Covington
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes on any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction and does not appear on the agenda. Speakers shall address their remarks to the Commission as a whole and not to individual Commissioners or Department personnel. Commissioners are not to enter into debate or discussion with a speaker. The lack of a response by the Commissioners or Department personnel does not necessarily constitute agreement with or support of statements made during public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *[Discussion and possible action]*
Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on June 12, 2019

4. **PRESENTATION ON OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT FACILITIES**
Charles Higueras, JFIP/ESER Program Manager with the Department of Public Works to provide an overview and update on status of Department Facilities undergoing ESER renovations and information regarding the Fire Chief's residence.

5. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT *[Discussion]*
REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, JEANINE NICHOLSON
Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on June 12, 2019, including budget, academies, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION, DEPUTY CHIEF JOSE VELO
Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status and updates, Finance, Support Services, Homeland Security, and Training within the Department.

6. COMMISSION REPORT *[Discussion]*
Report on Commission activities since last meeting on June 12, 2019

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS *[Discussion]*
Discussion regarding agenda for the next and future regular meetings.

8. ADJOURNMENT

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, June 12, 2019
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 416, San Francisco, California, 94102

The Video can be viewed by clicking this link:
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=180&clip_id=33391

President Nakajo called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Excused
Commissioner	Joe Alioto Veronese	Excused
Chief of Department	Jeanine Nicholson	Present.

Victor Wyrsch	Deputy Chief -- Operations
Jose Velo	Deputy Chief --Administration
Sandy Tong	EMS
Dan DeCossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention
Tony Rivera	Support Services
Michael Cochran	Homeland Security
Joel Sato	Training Division
Assistant Chiefs	
Brook Baker	Division 2
Denise Newman	Division 3
Staff	
Mark Corso	Deputy Director of Finance
Clement Yeh	Medical Director
Olivia Scanlon	Communications and Outreach

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- Minutes from Regular Meeting on April 24, 2019

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the above meeting Minutes. Commissioner Covington Seconded. Motion to approve Minutes was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. UPDATE FROM THE DIVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES
Assistant Deputy Chief Anthony Rivera to provide an update on the Division of Support Services.

Chief Rivera presented on accomplishments and future projects at Support Service. He presented the following PowerPoint: https://sf-fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/Support%20Services%20Presentation.pptx

Chief Rivera stated that Support Services not only maintains and procures equipment vehicles and facilities for the Department, but they also do a lot of research and try to ensure that the members are safe using the state-of-the-art equipment that not only allows them to do their job better but keeps them and the public healthy and safe. He touched on tools and equipment noting that they are reducing their reliance on fossil fuels, which also reduces firefighter's exposure to carcinogens. He explained the different equipment that now uses battery as opposed to fuel and gasoline. He added that every vehicle in the San Francisco Fire Department has a solar panel on the roof and that they have switched from biodiesel to renewable diesel, which is a nonpetroleum-based fuel that has remarkable reduction in output of emissions. He mentioned that they have exhaust extractor system at every firehouse, which means whenever the firefighters jump on to the vehicle to respond to an incident, a pressure sensitive switch is activated, and a fan comes on and sucks up all of the exhaust fumes out of the apparatus bay and put them out into the atmosphere to protect the firefighters. He touched on the vehicle-mounted filtration system that they are currently in a pilot program and he explained the promising results they are seeing from using that system. He talked about the innovation on the current hose tender design that the Department already has and how they work. Chef Rivera introduced Captain Ramon Serrano and Lieutenant Vince Wong, who do much of the work in the very specialized unit to mitigate any issues that arise at the Bureau of Equipment. They each introduced themselves. Chief Nicholson thanked Chief Rivera for his presentation and thanked Captain Serrano and Lieutenant Wong as they do so much to keep the department running.

Commissioner Hardeman Thanked Chief Rivera for his nice report and mentioned that he hopes Chief Nicholson continues the practice of allowing her staff to give commissioners paper report to take with them rather than just seeing it and he finds it beneficial. He asked how many hose tenders the department anticipates getting over the next couple of years. Chief Nicholson responded that they are hoping to get four this year and would like to have more than that. Commissioner Hardeman stated he was very impressed with the Bureau of Equipment when he visited the facility last year and he learned firsthand just exactly what these guys do and what their operation looks like. He also mentioned that he was glad were are reducing emissions.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Rivera for his report and appreciates all of the hard work that his division does. He confirmed that the goal of the department is to have all the vehicles outfitted with the mounted filtration system at a cost of about 73 million dollars. Commissioner Cleaveland also confirmed that there is only one manufacturer of PPE and they have reached out to them to make a turnout coat without carcinogenic elements and there are

ongoing discussions with the NFPA committee to come up with a product that can be testable and be able to certify.

Vice President Covington thanked Chief Rivera for his report and as she has gone through all of the material that he presented she doesn't want to miss the opportunity to say that what comes out very loud and clear to her is that all of it is a result of a vision and she thought it was a remarkable presentation and that the end result is beneficial to everyone. She was glad to see the reduction in carcinogenic materials on the trucks, in the firehouses and on the street and it all makes a huge difference in the long run. She congratulated his team and stated she also liked the comparison and contrast he outlined in his presentation. She asked Environmental Health and Safety Officer, Tony Boone, to come forward to add anything additional. Mr. Boone stated that he collaborated with the opacity test and explained in detail what that entailed, such as looking for carbon monoxide and other irritants like oxides of Nitrogen and oxides of sulfur.

President Nakajo stated that he appreciated that Captain Serrano and Lieutenant Wong were at the meeting and stated at a future meeting, he would also like updates on the Department of Training site that's futuristic and Station 13, in terms of potential developments as well as the EMS building, Station 16, Station 5 and Station 35. He touched on cordless extraction tools, and thermal imaging cameras and how to fund them. He added that it's a challenge every year, and everything they don't get through the budget process, they need to get it from somewhere such as grants. He confirmed that solar panels were initially installed in 2015 and that the department gets its renewable diesel from Golden Gate Petroleum. He also confirmed that the fireboat engineers deal with light maintenance issues, but if there is a major issue, they have a vendor or the fireboat will go into a dry dock where they will have a qualified technician take care of large repairs. He added that he was glad Chief Rivera put a picture of a hose tender in his presentation because it shows the engine and the capacity and description that can extend current AWSS and other possibilities, including high-rises as well and he mentioned how important it is to the greater overall AWSS system in terms of the west side, as the department has to have a system in play to be able to deal with suppression and issues in those prone areas. He confirmed they will have the capacity to draft directly into the board pump and/or use the portable submersible pump into the bay or other water sources. There was a discussion on hydrogen-powered vehicles. President Nakajo asked if there was a need for a resolution in terms of PPE's being made without carcinogens and Chief Rivera and Chief Nicholson was in support of that concept. He also mentioned that he would like more information on the "Chief's Residence" and the cost to make it "livable".

Commissioner Hardeman stated that in regard to the development of a new turnout coat, he thinks there is a big pot of gold waiting for somebody that can invent a turnout that protects and keeps you cool without carcinogens. He described what it feels like when he wears his turnout coat at a working fire.

5. OVERVIEW OF FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET *[Discussion]*
Update and overview from Director Mark Corso on the current budget.

Mark Corso gave a brief overview of the Department's proposed budget. He mentioned that the mayor proposed her budget back on May 31st. He presented the attached PowerPoint: https://sf-

fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/budget_5.pdf

He stated that general fund operations are the main funding allocation that contains day to day operations of the Fire Department, administratively and operationally and that they have some annual projects and continuing projects. He explained those in detail. He added that the biggest ticket item in the budget is their work order with the Port for services provided to them. He announced that the total proposed budget currently sits at 424 million dollars in the next upcoming year and it is an increase from the current year for a variety of factors. He explained that since the Commission approved the Department's submittal to the mayor's office, there was a joint letter with the Department and the Commission advocating for departmental needs. He added that Local 798, Department Administration and the Budget Committee met and determined at the time their three main priorities, which was EMS, Incident Support Specialists and equipment. He provided an overview of what the mayor's office has allocated, which includes 4 hose tenders, continuation of the mayor's public safety hiring plan, five additional EMS-6 FTEs to supplement operational staffing that they currently have, funding for EMS-6 training, an upgrade to the EMS-6 manager position, three additional fire inspector positions to deal with increased workload, three substitutions to assistant fire marshal from other officer positions and will allow for a strategic reorganization of the Bureau and the inclusion of assistant deputy chief to serve as the health and safety chief for the department. He touched on the allocation of over nine million dollars over the two years specific to equipment and the equipment plan, allocation of one senior administrative analyst to assist with EMS billing, one executive secretary position to assist with the increased administrative demands on the Department and an additional administrative position to assist with tasks. He expounded on the submittal timelines.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked him for his report and stated that he's always impressed by the numbers he puts together and how he presents them and let him know how fortunate the department is to have him as the CFO. He confirmed that the Department was proposing a very small fee increase of about four percent for fire inspections and permits. Commissioner Cleaveland expressed his support for the assistant deputy chief potion and confirmed that that position will have oversight of the physician's office position. He was also happy to see the allocation for an administrative analyst position to ramp up the EMS billing practices.

Commissioner Hardeman stated that the report was concise and well written. He mentioned that although he hasn't had a formal meeting with Supervisors' Peskin and Safai, he has had numerous discussions with them and he thinks they are favorable to the Fire Department without specifically picking anything they didn't like. He likes seeing the addition of staffing to keep up with the responsibilities that the Fire Department has with increased population.

President Nakajo confirmed that all of the presented positions have been approved by the mayor's office and needs to be approved by the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee. He confirmed that the additional EMS-6 positions will be coordinated out of Station 49 and the executive secretary position is also for the admin side of EMS. He also confirmed that the new assistant deputy chief's position is through an unfunded battalion chief's position and they are transferring it up to an assistant deputy chief position which will report to Deputy Chief of Administration Chief Velo. Commissioner Nakajo expressed his concerns about that position supervising the Physician's office.

There was no public comment.

6.. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT *[Discussion]*
REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT, JEANINE NICHOLSON
Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department since the Fire Commission meeting on April 24, 2019, including budget, academies, special events, communications and outreach to other government agencies and the public.

Chief Nicholson stated she, Deputy Chief Velo and Deputy Chief Wyrsch have been visiting the fire stations as well as having had a town hall meeting at Station 49 and they are continuing to do that and are getting good feedback from the members. She added that sometimes the best ideas happen over a cup of coffee and they have had some good conversations going. She mentioned that they are reorganizing and reestablishing internal committees and workgroups and that members have until June 17th to apply. In regard to the recent heatwave the city experienced, she stated it had a large impact on the department operationally and on EMS as well as on the Suppression side and they are continuing to make the story known to the Board of Supervisors in terms of what is going on in EMS and has been going on for a while. She added that the time on task is up 27 percent since 2014 and that means that the members in the ambulances are spending 27 percent more time on their work at hand to run a 9-1-1- call and it's taking 27 percent longer. She explained some of the reasons, such as increased traffic and more documentation requirements are due to the increase. She touched on the challenges at Chase Center, and the budget that they are currently working on. With regard to upcoming events, she mentioned that on Friday she will be attending the Women's Summit and the 125th Academy class graduation and on Saturday she will be marching in the Juneteenth celebration parade with command staff and next week she will be conducting conversations with possible recruits for the H-2 and H-3 Level 1 upcoming academy classes.

Commissioner Cleaveland thanked Chief Nicholson for her report and asked what the general comments and feedback has been from her visits to the various fire stations. Chief Nicholson responded that initially, she was getting more of a dumbfounded look like, wow, you guys are coming to talk to us, but that they are really happy that the administration is opening the lines of communication and having conversations and that they are willing to listen, and they really want to hear about what it is that the administration is doing. Commissioner Cleaveland applauded Chief Nicholson for reaching out to the rank and file and getting feedback and having that open dialogue on a regular basis will be valuable for everyone. He confirmed that approximately 70 percent of the 9-1-1- calls are medical emergencies and of that 70 percent, about 37 percent have unidentifiable addresses.

Regarding the update on the Drone program, Chief Cochrane stated that the drone is grant funded by UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) and to make the purchases, an approved aviation request form is required from Cal OES. He added that the request was submitted by UASI on April 5th for Cal OES to review and a follow up was requested on May 3rd and May 22nd and there has been no response. Vice President Covington responded by stating that with all the inclement weather and the flooding throughout the country, FEMA is pressed to the wall right now and she thinks when things settle down a bit, they will be more responsive and that we need to be patient.

Commissioner Hardeman added that he doesn't think the public knows how important of a person Chief Cochrane is to this Department, but his position is very important as the safety of all of San Francisco as he works with every part of city government and he has his hands full all the time. He touched briefly on the preparation for the Pride Parade. He confirmed that King American Ambulance has the contact with Oracle Park and that Chase will have a similar contract with one of the ambulance companies.

Vice President Covington asked Chief Nicholson to enumerate her top three asks are in terms of importance for the Department regarding the budget. Chief Nicholson responded that everything that she asked for in the budget she felt was an absolute necessity although they didn't get everything they asked for. She strongly expressed that they absolutely need the fleet and equipment replacement as well as the hose tenders and EMS personnel, and additional assistance in Fire Prevention. She added that they need everything and more that they are asking for. Vice President Covington stated that they've been running at a deficit for quite some time and these asks are very serious, not just for fleet and EMS and Fire Prevention, but there are so many things that are going on and since these are flush times in the city, now is the time when they need to acquire these materials and promote people so that they can do the job that needs to be done in order to protect the citizens and the visitors of the City. She touched on the letter that PG-& E sent out to ratepayers informing them of their public safety power shutoff. She mentioned that her first thought after reading the letter was this is going to increase call volume to 9-1-1. Chief Cochrane explained that he is also concerned, but that DEM is on top of it and tomorrow there is going to be a preparation coordination workshop being held at the Bill Graham Center with all involved agencies to have discussions and solutions for preparing and planning for such a shutoff.

Commissioner Cleaveland confirmed that they have finalized the job description and announcement for the Grant Writer and will repost it in hopes of getting a bigger pool of applications this time around.

There was no public comment.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS, DEPUTY CHIEF VICTOR WYRSCH
Report on overall field operations, including greater alarm fires, Emergency Medical Services, Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, and Airport Division.

Chief Wyrsch took time to commend Chief Nicholson as she has taken the baton and run with it at a speed he can't believe and it's inspiring to him and is helping in keeping him going. He also thanked that ADC's behind him, as he thought it was a day job, and it's basically 27/7 and he appreciates how they have been answering his phone calls and emails and are always there for him. He also gave out kudos to IT manager, Jesus Mora.

Chief Wyrsch stated during the reporting period, there were a total of 13 working fires in the month of May with two greater alarms, the first was at 1557 Innes Avenue, and Assistant Chief Kalos was the incident commander. He explained the attack on the fire, and that there were no injuries, but 12 people were displaced. The second grater alarm was at 1635 Golden Gate, with Chief Kalos as incident commander. He described in detail the efforts made to attack the fire from the members on scene. He touched on other significant events during the reporting period and can they can be retrieved by uploading the attached report: https://sf-

fire.org/sites/default/files/COMMISSION/Fire%20Commission%20Support%20Documents%202015/ops%20report_2.pdf

Public Comment:

6. COMMISSION REPORT *[Discussion]*
Report on Commission activities since last meeting on April 24, 2019.

There was no public comment.

7. AGENDA FOR NEXT AND FUTURE FIRE COMMISSION MEETINGS *[Discussion]*
Discussion regarding agenda for next and future Fire Commission meetings.

There was no public comment.

8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED *[Discussion]*

- Email dated 4/23/19 from Daniela Ponce

There was no public comment.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEM 11
Public comment on all matters pertaining to Item 11 below, including public comment on whether to hold Item 11(b) (c) and (d) in closed session.

There was no public comment.

11. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

a. VOTE ON WHETHER TO CONDUCT ITEMS 11(b) (c) and (d) IN CLOSED SESSION *[Action]*
The Commission may hear Item 11(b) (c) and (d) in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b) and Administrative Code Section 67.10(b).

Commissioner Cleaveland made a motion to conduct item 11(b) (c) and (d), in Closed Session. Commissioner Hardeman seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. (4-0; Nakajo, Hardeman, Covington, Cleaveland)

The Commission went into closed session at 11:33 p.m.

Also present was Deputy City Attorney, Brad Russi.

b. CASE NO. 2018-01: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION APPEAL, FOR VIOLATIONS AS FOLLOWS: *[Discussion and possible action]*

The appeal is from a three-calendar day suspension for violation of the Rules and Regulations as follows:

Section 3901 - Unauthorized Use of Department Name
Section 3902 - Unauthorized Use of Uniform
Section 3905 - Familiarity with the Rules

Section 3914- Unauthorized Visit to Places of Amusement
Section 3923 -Acts Detrimental to the Welfare of the Department

At the Commission's meeting on December 12, 2018, the Commission deliberated and decided member's appeal of a 3-day suspension imposed by the Chief of Department and by a unanimous vote the Commission the Commission denied members appeal and upheld the Chief's 3-day suspension. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Vice President Covington Moved to approve the findings of fact. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

c. **CASE NO. 2018-04: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION APPEAL, FOR VIOLATIONS AS FOLLOWS: *[Discussion and possible action]***

The appeal is from a ten-calendar-day suspension for violation of the Rules and Regulations as follows:

Section 3909 – False Reports
Section 3921 – Inattention to Duty
Section 3929 – First Alarm Areas
Section 3941 – Use of Department Vehicles

At the Commission meeting on January 9, 2019, the Commission deliberated and decided member's appeal of a 10-day suspension imposed by the Chief of Department and by a vote of 3-2 (Ayes: Cleaveland, Nakajo, Hardeman, Nays: Covington, Alioto-Veronese), the Commission upheld the charged rule violations and reduced the penalty from a 10-day suspension to a 4-day suspension. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Vice President Covington Moved to approve the findings of fact. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

d. **CASE NO. 2018-05: COMMISSION DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT, AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT REGARDING COMMISSION'S DECISION ON EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION APPEAL, FOR VIOLATIONS AS FOLLOWS: *[Discussion and possible action]***

The appeal is from a ten-calendar-day suspension for violation of the Rules and Regulations as follows:

Section 2808 – Welfare of Subordinates
Section 3909 – False Reports
Section 3921 – Inattention to Duty
Section 3941 – Use of Department Vehicles

At the Commission meeting on January 9, 2019, the Commission deliberated and decided member's appeal of a 10-day suspension imposed by the Chief of Department and by a vote of 3-2 (Ayes: Cleaveland, Nakajo, Hardeman, Nays: Covington, Alioto-Veronese), the Commission upheld the charged rule violations and reduced the penalty from a 10-day suspension to a 4-day suspension. The Commission is now considering proposed Findings of Fact in relation to that decision.

Vice President Covington Moved to approve the findings of fact. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. The motion was unanimous.

e. **IF CLOSED SESSION HELD, RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION.**

i. **REPORT ON ANY ACTION TAKEN IN CLOSED SESSION** as specified in California Government Code Section 54957.1(a) and San Francisco Administrative Code section 67.12(b).

The Commission reconvened in Open Session at 11:44 a.m. The Commission had nothing to report.

ii. **VOTE TO ELECT WHETHER TO DISCLOSE ANY OR ALL DISCUSSIONS HELD IN CLOSED SESSION**, as specified in San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a). ***[Action]***

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to not disclose discussions held in closed session. Vice President Covington Seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. (4-0; Nakajo, Hardeman, Covington, Veronese)

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Conefrey, Maureen (FIR)

From: Ludwig, Theresa (FIR)
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 1:19 PM
Subject: General Order 19 A-41, Rope Rescue Technician Course

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

File
Code 19 A-41
June
13, 2019

From: Chief of Department
To: Distribution List "A"
Subject: Rope Rescue Technician Course
Reference: Rules & Regulations, Section 402
Enclosure: None

Officer Endorsement:
Section 1108 – R & R _____

1. The San Francisco Fire Department is hosting a Rope Rescue Technician Course funded by the California Firefighter Apprenticeship Committee. This five-day class will be held Monday, July 15, 2019 through Friday, July 19, 2019 at the Division of Training, Treasure Island Training Facility.

2. This course will familiarize students with the high angle environment, provide an opportunity to participate in the engineering and operation of simple to complex rescue systems, and prepare students to undergo competency testing for high angle rescue operations.

3. The prerequisite to attend this training is:
   a) Rescue Systems I (2009-present) AND Low Angle Rope Rescue Operations (LARRO)

      OR

   b) Rescue Systems I (prior to 2009).

4. Members must attend all five days of the instructor-led course and successfully complete the intensive hands-on training and curriculum in order to be certified. There are 24 spots available in this class.

5. Members will be selected in the following order:
   a) Permanent members of Rescue 1 and Rescue 2 who are required to obtain the certification to maintain their positions per General Order 17 A-56 *Vacancy List* and General Order 18 A-76 *Vacancy List*.
   b) Permanent members of Rescue 1, Rescue 2, Truck 14, and Truck 19 by rank and seniority*.
   c) Permanent members assigned to Station 1, Station 7, Station 14, or Station 19 by rank and seniority*.
   d) All other members by rank and seniority*.

**Note: Members in this category who are registered State Fire Training Instructors may be given priority based upon training experience and Department needs. To receive priority, verification of State Certification must be submitted to the Division of Training and shall include a letter from State Fire Training, a report from the State Fire Training Acadis website, or being listed on the State Fire Training Instructor Database verifying Registered Instructor status.*

Members must submit a General Form to the Director of Training requesting to attend the class, stating their agreement to be an instructor for the Department in an as-needed basis, and include State Registered Instructor verification documentation.

6. Training will be held from 0830-1700 hours each day. Members are reminded to make lunch arrangements prior to attending class.

7. Upon acceptance to the class, members must bring their full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including helmet, gloves, safety glasses, safety boots, long sleeve shirt, long pants, and Class III full body harness (if available).

8. Interested members are to sign up via the "Appointments" tab on the Fire Station Application. This tab is located to the right of the calendar on the home page.
   - Go to the Home page
   - Click "Appointments"
   - Click "Add"
   - Select the location of the training: Division of Training
   - Select Appointment Type: Rope Rescue Technician
   - Select the date: July 15, 2019 (members sign up once but must attend all five days)
   - Click on "Create"

   A members' status will initially be shown as "waitlisted". Once selected to attend the course, the status will change to "enrolled".

9. Members may not attend this training while working a trade (TRW). Compensation and/or TC will not be granted to members attending in an off-duty status.

10. The deadline to sign up is 1200 hours on Monday, July 1, 2019. General Forms with Registered Instructor Status verification must be received by the Division of Training by the same date and time. Only registered State Training Instructors need to submit a General Form. Class attendance acceptance notifications will be distributed via Outlook.

11. Questions regarding this General Order shall be directed to the Division of Training at (415) 970-2000.

Jeanine R. Nicholson
Chief of Department

Conefrey, Maureen (FIR)

From: Ludwig, Theresa (FIR)
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 1:18 PM
Subject: General Order 19 A-40, Fireground Decontamination Policy
Attachments: 19 A-40 Fireground Decontamination Policy Attachment.pdf

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER

File Code 19
A-40
June 13, 2019

From: Chief of Department
To: Distribution List "A"
Subject: Fireground Decontamination Policy
Reference: Rules and Regulations, Section 402
Enclosure: Fireground Decontamination Policy

Officer Endorsement:
Sec 1108 – R. & R. _____

1. The Fireground Decontamination Policy is attached with this General Order and can be found in AO Reports.

2. All members should familiarize themselves with the contents of this policy. Chief and Company Officers shall ensure that all members under their supervision review and comply with the provisions in this Policy.

3. This Decontamination Policy is applied in conjunction with other policies that address firefighter health and safety related to fireground operations, including General Order 18 A-72 *Personal Protective Equipment Cleaning and Maintenance Program*, General Order 18 A-08 *Firefighter Post-Fire Decontamination Wipes Policy*, *Incident Rehabilitation Policy* October 2013, General Order 08 A-87 *Department Air Monitoring Policy*, and CD2 Memorandum 16-01 Deputy Chief - Operations *Overhaul Policy*.

Jeanine R. Nicholson
Chief of Department

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fireground Decontamination Policy

June 2019

I. PURPOSE

1. To reduce the risk of exposure to potentially hazardous substances and possible carcinogens from products of combustion during and after incident operations.
2. To limit the risk of exposure via inhalation, dermal absorption and ingestion by establishing a standard operating procedure for decontamination of PPE, personnel, and equipment after exposure to the by-products of combustion and harmful contaminants.
3. Following said exposure to the by-products of combustion and harmful contaminants, to ensure the proper decontamination of PPE, personnel, and equipment.

II. AUTHORITY

1. This policy is adopted based on the following guidelines: NFPA 1851, NFPA Contamination Control Campaign, IAFF Cancer Awareness and Prevention, Healthy In, Healthy Out Best Practices Manual, Journal of Occupational Hygiene: Contamination of Firefighter Personal Protective Equipment and Skin and the Effectiveness of Decontamination Procedures.

III. POLICY

The intent of this policy is to establish contamination control practices, minimize exposure from carcinogens and other toxic chemicals, and to expedite post incident decontamination. Decontamination activities on scene should be focused on minimizing acute exposure, and quickly returning firefighters to their stations to conduct thorough decontamination. Thorough decontamination is best achieved at fire stations where shower facilities, clean clothing, and replacement PPE are available.

1. GROSS DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES ON THE FIREGROUND

Each apparatus shall carry a fire suppression decontamination kit consisting of the following: 5-gallon bucket with lid, decon scrub brushes (long handle and short handle), ECOS liquid soap or equivalent, spray bottle with diluted liquid soap (recommended dilution 2 gallons water to 2 teaspoons soap), wet wipes, N-95 masks, safety glasses, large plastic bags, and nitrile gloves. An orange traffic cone shall be used, if available, to identify the decon area. A small hose line from apparatus with fog nozzle, or a garden hose with spray nozzle, set at low pressure (recommend 10-15 psi for 1 ¾" hose line and 30-40 psi for 1" hose line) may be used for wet decon. Medic units, fire investigation units, and Chiefs' buggies shall carry wet wipes.

Gross decontamination (gross decon) shall be performed at the conclusion of suppression activities to remove potentially harmful contaminants, and prior to removing turnout gear and PPE. The Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer will initiate gross decon procedures on scene, assign unit(s) responsible for on scene decontamination, and designate the gross decon area.

If possible, gross decon shall be done prior to conducting rehabilitation (rehab) in order to minimize inhalation, ingestion and absorption exposures. In cases where rehab is needed during suppression activities, members will use wet wipes, and soap and water to clean hands and face to reduce the risk of ingestion of harmful contaminants.

Gross decon shall also be performed by all instructors and participants at the conclusion of live fire training and drills where Class A materials are burned, and by fire investigators at the conclusion of their investigation at a fire scene.

The following factors should also be considered in determination of decontamination actions:

1. Fire location and type
2. Chemical or exposure or concentration specific to incident
3. Personnel location, assignment, and PPE condition
4. Duration of exposure
5. Body temperature, work demand, and health of exposed personnel

Toxic substances identified in fire smoke include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), and several other organic and inorganic compounds. A 2017 study published in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene indicates that dry-brush method decon reduces contaminants on PPE by 23%, and wet-soap decon method reduces contaminants on PPE by 85%.

Gross decon requires personnel to remain in full PPE with SCBA, facepiece donned and while on air. These personnel will perform gross decon on each other head to toe, and front to back. Other personnel assisting in decon, but not in full PPE and on air, shall wear nitrile gloves, eye protection and N-95 mask for protection.

LIGHT EXPOSURE - includes exposure to dry products of combustion for a short duration, and is usually consistent with exterior operations. May also be used as an option during inclement and unfavorable weather conditions.

a. DRY BRUSH – Close all PPE pockets. Begin at head and use decon brush to brush in a downward fashion to remove debris and particulates until entire body has been brushed. Wet wipes and hand and face washing with soap and water may also be used on scene.

MODERATE TO HEAVY EXPOSURE - includes exposure to dry and wet products of combustion, usually consistent with exposure to interior firefighting or exterior operations while working in close proximity to the fire and smoke for longer durations.

b. WET DECON – Close all PPE pockets. Use soap and water mixture with the decon scrub brush, and clean from head to toe in a downward fashion to remove debris, soot, and particulates until the entire body has been brushed. Include helmet, PPE, SCBA, gloves and boots. Rinse gear with decon hose line until no more suds remain. Caution should be taken not to push water or particulates inside the collar, or to saturate the radio mic.

1. If available, the apparatus operator may place an orange traffic cone to designate the gross decon area. The apparatus operator shall extend the decon hose line away from the IDLH environment, away from the apparatus, and away from the apparatus exhaust pipe. The apparatus operator will ensure that the decon hose line is charged at a low pressure (recommend 10-15 psi for 1 ¾" hose line and 30-40 psi for 1" hose line) to ensure limited spread of particulates.

2. Wash/Rinse/Wipe contaminated tools and equipment with brush, rag, and soap and water mixture to remove most contaminants before storing them back on the apparatus. This includes SCBA bottles, masks and packs.

3. PPE determined to be heavily contaminated or soiled may be removed on scene and sealed in a plastic bag, as long as the member has appropriate clothing to wear. Heavily contaminated PPE may be placed and secured on the apparatus outside the passenger cab. At the discretion of the Incident Commander or Battalion Chief, companies with bagged turnouts may remain out of service until they are able to shower and place a second set of turnouts in service.

4. PERSONAL CLEANING – While on scene, members shall use department issued or non-alcohol based wet wipes to remove as much soot and particulates as possible from hands, face, ears, head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and groin area. Whenever possible, members shall wash hands and face with soap and water prior to eating or drinking at rehab. Mobile Air will have a supply of wet wipes and soap for members, and will remain on scene until gross decon is completed.

2. DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES AT THE FIRE STATION

It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander and/or Safety Officer to initiate gross decon procedures on scene, and leave companies out-of-service for further decontamination in quarters at the Fire Station when possible. While out-of-service, Company Officers will monitor radio traffic in their first alarm area, and may respond to a call during decontamination procedures, providing timely response to priority incidents.

Nitrile gloves shall be used when handling contaminated equipment and gear and safety glasses and N-95 masks may be used when needed. Whenever possible, contaminated equipment and gear shall be handled outside the premises of the Fire Station.

a. MANDATORY SHOWER – Shower within the hour with cool water and soap. Cool water will keep skin pores closed to limit particulate absorption. Change into clean clothes and uniform.

c. CLEAN EQUIPMENT AND CAB OF APPARATUS – Wash, wipe, and clean contaminated tools and equipment with brush, rag, soap and water mixture, and all-purpose cleaner. Wipe down radios and mics. Wipe down interior of cab with damp rag and all-purpose cleaner. If available, a shop vacuum with HEPA filter may also be used in the cab. Do not dry sweep any part of the cab, since harmful particulates may be inhaled.

d. WASH SCBAs - Wash SCBA packs with decon scrub brush, and soap and water mixture in a bucket and rinse. Wipe down regulators with a wet rag and diluted soap mixture, and rinse, or dunk quickly in the bucket, rinse then shake and blow air through for a few seconds.

e. WASH MASKS - Dip masks in bucket with soap and water mixture. Rinse and wipe dry. (NOTE: Scott manufacturer recommends using a "mild dishwashing detergent" such as ECOS, Ivory Liquid or regular Dawn. Dawn Ultra has an added ingredient that could react with the equipment and is NOT recommended. No ammonium compounds shall be used).

f. WASH PPE - Contaminated PPE, turnouts, gloves, and hoods shall be washed in the Fire Station's PPE Washer/Extractor per department policy. Nitrile gloves and plastic bags may be used to limit exposure while handling contaminated PPE. Wash boots with brush and soap and water, and wipe helmets, helmet liners, and helmet straps down with a wet rag.

    1. SECOND SET OF PPE NOT AVAILABLE – If a member does not have a second set of clean PPE available, the member shall conduct a thorough gross decon of PPE as soon as possible, and hang the PPE to line dry while in service. The member shall conduct a full and thorough PPE wash as soon as possible, or at the latest, when a second set of PPE becomes available. (All members shall have previously been issued two (2) sets of turnouts).

3. WILDLAND GEAR

It is the responsibility of the Strike Team Leader and/or Company Officer to ensure that crews follow PPE cleaning and decontamination procedures whenever possible.

During deployments, it may be difficult to wash the wildland and structure PPE due to the continuous work cycle. When members have PPE that are heavily soiled, they shall make all attempts to wash their gear using the decon kit provided on the apparatus. The Strike Team Leader will coordinate decon procedures to ensure operational readiness. Whenever possible, members shall utilize wash stations, if provided at the incident base camp. When gear is contaminated with Poison Oak or Poison Ivy, it is imperative to wash this gear as soon as possible. Mild detergent and/or specialized products should be utilized, if available. Upon return from deployment, members shall wash their contaminated wildland PPE (pants, coats, gloves, helmet shroud) and contaminated structure PPE in the Fire Station PPE Washer/Extractors per General Order 18-A72.

4. LIMITING EXPOSURE AT THE FIREHOUSE

All members shall engage in activities that reduce or eliminate exposure to potential carcinogens.

a. Apparatus Exhaust – The diesel exhaust extractor shall be attached at all times when apparatus is entering, exiting, in quarters, and while idling on the apparatus floor. Apparatus shall be pulled out of the apparatus bay during periods of extended running or idling.

b. Proper Sealing of Doors – Whenever possible, doors between apparatus bay and the communications room and living quarters shall remained closed to limit exposure to apparatus exhaust and particulates.

c. Wet Mopping Apparatus Floor - Use a separate wet mop and bucket designated only for cleaning the apparatus floors to remove dust and contaminants. A shop vac with HEPA filter also may be used to remove dust and contaminants if available.

d. It is the policy of the San Francisco Fire Department that members are STRICTLY FORBIDDEN from wearing Turnout Gear anywhere in the living areas of the Fire Station.