

**Yakima County Fire District 12– Standard Operating Guidelines**  
**SOG 5-5 – Mass Decontamination**

**1. General**

**1.1 Purpose.** This standard operating guideline is intended to provide guidance and direction in the response to and need for the decontamination of a large number of persons. This standard operating guideline is meant for situations involving large numbers of contaminated persons in life threatening situations and is not intended to replace decontamination procedures routinely used at hazardous materials incidents

**1.2 Scope.** This standard operating guideline shall apply to all members of Yakima County Fire District 12

**1.3 Enforcement.** Enforcement of this standard operating guideline is the responsibility of the District's officers. Any person deviating from the provisions of this guideline may be required, at the discretion of the officer in charge, to submit in writing, within five (5) calendar days, an explanation for such deviation to the requesting officer who will forward the explanation up the chain of command for further review.

**2. Need for Mass Decontamination**

**2.1** The need for mass decontamination shall be considered when responding to any hazardous materials or suspected terrorist incidents. The company officer should be prepared to institute this procedure as soon as possible after arriving on the scene of a hazardous materials incident.

**2.2** Area hospitals may request fire service response to perform mass decontamination of patients arriving at their facility directly from the scene of a hazardous materials incident or an incident of biological, chemical, or radiological terrorism.

**2.3** As all of these incidents are hazardous materials incidents, a hazmat team (Department of Ecology, WSP or mutual aid) should be requested. As these incidents will generally have already engaged the resources of the Hazardous Materials Team, mass decontamination procedures of victims should not be delayed for their arrival.

**3. Establishing a Decontamination of Operation**

**3.1** Upon determining the need for mass decontamination of persons, the Incident Commander shall request the dispatch of two (2) engine companies to perform decontamination.

**3.2** Upon arrival the engine companies shall be positioned in a location that runoff from decontamination operations will not affect others. The trucks shall be

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placed side by side with the pump panels facing outward and the passenger sides separated by approximately six to eight feet.

**3.3** Attach nozzles directly to the discharge outlets on the passenger side of the apparatus.

**3.4** Place a salvage cover between the two trucks to create a tent/tunnel between the apparatus.

**3.5** Stretch a preconnected handline to approximately 25 feet from the beginning of the decontamination corridor. This line shall be manned by a single firefighter in full structural firefighting protective equipment, including SCBA.

**3.6** Establish a water supply capable of providing a minimum of 500 gpm. The apparatus do not have to be on individual hydrants and can cross supply each other.

**3.7** Open the passenger side discharges and the handlines to provide 75 psi at the nozzle.

**3.8** Attempts should be made to control and contain runoff. Mass decontamination should not be delayed if there is a life hazard to the contaminated persons.

**4. Decontamination of Persons**

**4.1** Instructions to contaminated persons should be clear and precise and relayed through the use of a bullhorn or apparatus public address system.

**4.2** Contaminated persons should be instructed to enter the decontamination corridor and wet down all clothing. After wetting down their clothing, contaminated persons shall be instructed to remove all clothing and enter the decontamination tunnel.

**4.3** Once in the decontamination tunnel, contaminated persons should be instructed to scrub vigorously all part of their body to further remove contamination.

**4.4** Once contaminated persons have completed the decontamination process, they should exit the decontamination corridor and be covered with temporary clothing. (i.e. disposable blankets, scrub suits, paper gowns, etc.) From this point the decontaminated persons should be directed to a triage area for medical evaluation.

**5. Contaminated Persons Incapable of Self-Decontamination**

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**5.1** Under no circumstances should personnel assist persons who are contaminated and incapable of self-decontamination unless they are outfitted in the appropriate level of PPE dictated by the suspected chemical or agent. A hazardous materials response team should affect these rescues whenever possible.

**6. Mass Decontamination Corridor Illustration Next Page**

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**6. Mass Decontamination Corridor Illustration**

