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# Davie Fire Rescue Health and Safety Initiatives

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**November 19, 2020**

**Fire Chief Julie Downey**

**Battalion Chief Chris Abramczyk**

**Battalion Chief Dan Moran**



# First Clean Cab Engine arrives to Davie Fire Rescue!



# Clean Cab Engine Design



# Clean Cab Engine Design



Increased lighting

- lighted handrails
- LED headlights & scene lights
- Traffic diverting lights on both sides

360 cameras

Backup sensors

Setcom Wireless headsets



# Bunker Gear Redesign

- Waist band
- Legs, neck, groin area
- This will reduce exposure at the neck, waist, and extremities.
- Chevrons were added to increase visibility and safety while on the scene of vehicle accidents



# Available Support

- Care 24 (United Healthcare) 1-888-887-4114
- Town of Davie Employee Support Services (EAP)
- NSU PHd student assigned
- DFR Chaplaincy Program
- Peer Group Support Members
- DFR Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Teams
- Firefighter Support **Help line**

Phone numbers housed on Target Solutions Frequent Links

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP) (888) 887-4114** United Healthcare/Optum's 24/toll-free help line. Emotional-support resources and information are available online at [www.liveandworkwell.com](http://www.liveandworkwell.com).

<b>Fire/EMS Helpline (888) 731-3473</b> Confidential 24-hour helpline for Firefighters/EMTs	<b>Safe Call Now (206) 459-3020</b> Confidential Comprehensive 24-hour Crisis Referral Service for Public Safety Employees <a href="http://www.safecallnow.org">www.safecallnow.org</a>
<b>National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (800) 273-8255</b> 24-hour confidential help line <a href="http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org">www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</a>	<b>Station House (855) 525-HELP (855) 525-4357</b> Substance Abuse Program for Fire Responders Located in Boynton Beach <a href="http://www.stationhousetreat.com">www.stationhousetreat.com</a>



**Fire Chaplain**  
Mark Coleman  
(954) 536-7770

**Davie Peer Group Members**

Dwight Alnor	Aneel Mehra
William Anderson	Michael Plana
Romney Behnam	Monica Santana
Brent Edghill	Mark Vezina
Kelly Barreto-Frie	Brian Walker



**Chaplain Liaison**  
Vincent Muller

**Fire Chaplain**  
Forest Willis  
(252) 339-0285

**Mental Health Resources**

Validated Public Safety Mental Health Providers		
Debbie Rode, LMHC	12555 Orange Dr, #267 Davie 33330	(954)471-5286
Carlos Plasencia, LMHC	10406 Taft Street, Pembroke Pines 33026	(954)436-3880
Laurence Miller, Psychologist	1599 NW 9 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, #206 Boca Raton 33486	(561) 275-5135
Patrick McCaghren, LCSC	10400 Griffin Rd, #101 Cooper City 33021	(954)436-8326
Brandy Bang, Psychologist	7469 NW 4 <sup>th</sup> Street Plantation 33317	(954)792-0772

# Health & Safety



## Limit Your Exposure to Cancer



Cancer is the most dangerous and unrecognized threat to the health and safety of our firefighters. Even with our top quality PPE, you are still exposed to unknown risks penetrating our gear. Firefighters are at greater risk than the public in many cancers.

- Testicular cancer (2.02 times greater risk)
- Multiple myeloma (1.53 times greater risk)
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (1.51 times greater risk)
- Skin cancer (1.39 times greater risk)
- Prostate cancer (1.28 times greater risk)
- Malignant melanoma (1.31 times greater risk)
- Brain cancer (1.31 times greater risk)
- Colon cancer (1.21 times greater risk)
- Leukemia (1.41 times greater risk)
- Breast cancer (preliminary study results)

### Steps you can take to limit your exposure:

Use SCBA from initial attack to finish of overhaul.



- Limit idling of apparatus when possible to avoid diesel exhaust.
- Complete a gross decon of PPE to remove as much soot and particulates as possible at the scene. Do the hood swap after every exposure.
- Use personal wipes to remove as much soot as possible from the head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms, and hands immediately in rehab.
- Change your clothes and wash them immediately after a fire.
- Shower within an hour after a fire.
- Use sunscreen for any time period where you are exposed to the sun.
- Bag your contaminated PPE after the fire and seal it before placing into the cab. Thoroughly decon the gear at the station before going in service.
- Do not take contaminated clothes or PPE home or store it in your vehicle.
- Keep bunker gear out of living and sleeping quarters.

# Firefighter Decon



## ON-SCENE DECONTAMINATION GUIDE



### Decontamination Procedure

**Step 1:** Driver (or person assigned by IC) establishes a decon area – Connects expandable decon hose to pump panel, cracks discharge open to fill collapsible hose, then brings bucket (with decon soap, brush and wipes) to decon area. Bring blower nearby to allow crew to blow off dry contaminants. Deploy a tarp next to decon area (or one tarp for decon and a separate one for gear drop if soft ground.) Hand wipes should be in gear drop location along with a box of medical gloves.

**Step 2:** Crew exits structure and immediately reports to decon area. \*Remain on air\* If multiple crews exit at same time, priority is given to crew with lowest air. Use blower to decon from dry contaminants. Next use the expandable hose to give a quick wash down from the collar down. Loosen straps, then rotate, and spray again from airpack top to bottom of boots. \*If this is final time exiting structure, decon soap can also be used during this process.\*

**Step 3:** Helmet is removed and then come off air. Hood is removed with personnel holding breath as it moves past over the face. Immediately use wipes: hands 1st thoroughly, new wipe, nose and mouth, new wipe, eyes, new wipe, neck and skin.

- If possible, DE should bring station boots to this location to allow crew to walk safely to rehab. If not possible, use a tarp for a secondary gear drop (for bunker pants/boots) near rehab.

**Step 4:** Report to rehab with **NO PPE** on. Follow rehab policy/protocol for procedure.

### Returning to Service

**Step 1:** Hood Swap with Battalion Chief.

**Step 2:** Decon helmet, SCBA and mask, then mount back onto apparatus.

**Step 3:** Place gear inside of a clear heavy-duty bag, then tie a knot on the bag or use drawstrings to secure it. Tape can be used to seal any small openings from bag. Gear is transported in the bag back to station where a more thorough decon can occur and possibly gear swap if needed.

**Step 4:** "Shower within an hour." Priority is to complete a personal decon in department showers within one hour from clearing the fire scene. Clean uniforms at station, do not bring them into your personal vehicle or to your house.



Fire      Report to Decon      On-Scene Decon      Rehab      Clean cab back to station      Shower



KEEP THIS GUIDE WITH THE DECON BUCKET

# Health & Safety

## On-Scene Decon

- A formalized process for removing carcinogens from our gear and skin that requires a culture shift.
- The on-scene decon culture is still growing and slowly becoming “the norm.”



# On-Scene Decon Process

- Driver establishes decon area: Collapsible hose with adapter, Green Bucket with wipes, brush, and cleaning spray.
- Crew exits the fire and reports to decon.
- Personnel with lowest air go first if multiple crews exit at same time.
- Personnel remain on air and rinse each other from collar down.
- Gear is removed. No gear enters rehab.
- Use wipes: Nose, mouth, eyes, neck, and then other exposed skin.
- Bag the gear for thorough decon at station.
- Hood Swap with BC.



# On-Scene Decon – Challenges

Culture Change! **This was normal.** ----->  
We've changed before, it's time again.



Getting from gear drop location to rehab.

Dubunking myths:

- Complete water saturation adds 3 pounds to our gear.
- “I’m going to get steam burned!!!”

[PBCFR Decon Burns](#)



# COVID-19 Prevention Initiatives

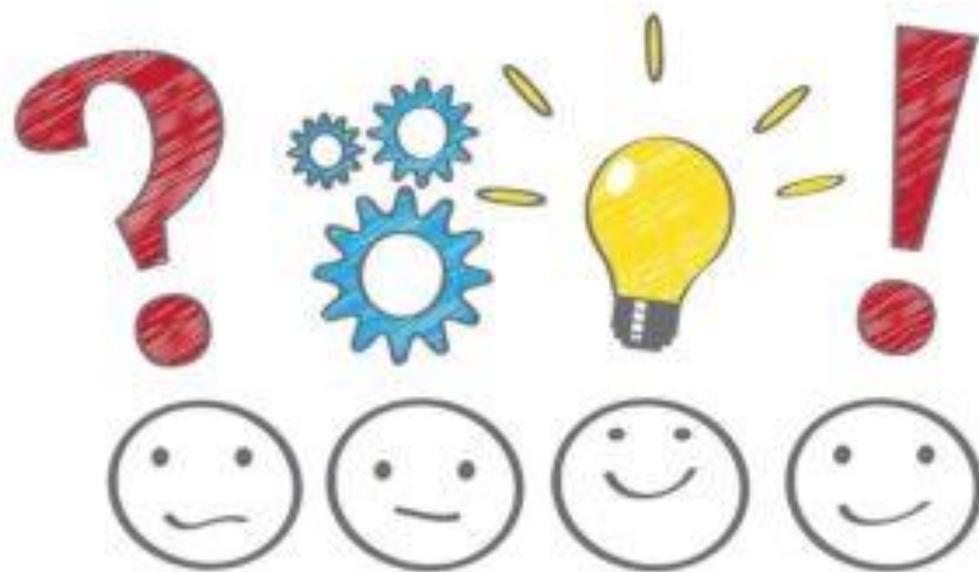
- Station wellness stations
- Electrostatic machines at all stations
- Electrostatic handheld machines on all rescues
- All Town buildings have wellness check stations and electrostatic machines



# Active Shooter Hostile Event Preparedness



# Questions



[www.fb.com/DavieFireRescue](http://www.fb.com/DavieFireRescue)



[www.twitter.com/DavieFireRescue](http://www.twitter.com/DavieFireRescue)



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