

## OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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T006

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Nancy J. Orr, State Fire Marshal

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**SUBJECT: Decontamination Procedures** 

**OBJECTIVE:** To Provide Guidance and Direction on Conducting decontamination Procedures

## I. SCOPE

Decontamination is a requirement under state and federal regulations for protecting those involved in hazardous materials incidents. 1 (29 CFR 1910.120 q 3)

Decontamination is used to remove contaminants that may be critical to the health and safety of personnel who respond to incidents involving hazardous materials releases and civilians at these incidents. It protects all people by minimizing or eliminating the transfer of hazardous substances into clean areas. It helps protect the community and environment from the uncontrolled spread of contaminants.

This Standard Operating Guideline should be utilized at all incidents where contamination or the threat of secondary contamination requires decontamination procedures to be used.

## II. DIRECTION

The Oregon Regional Teams have adopted the national standard NFPA 472 chapters 3 and 4 in the areas of decontamination as their standard of professionalism. They have further clarified this through the adoption of the IAFF Hazardous Materials Technician course to identify definitions, terms and methods. However due to the dynamic of hazardous materials response the exact delivery of the decon procedure to be used as it relates to the hazard will be left up to the team responding.

For some types of products secondary contamination will not occur and, as a result, decontamination will not be required. This will be determined through consult though one or more of the following methods resource materials, industry professionals, Oregon Poison Control.

Case law has established that the only time it is acceptable to create a potentially toxic run-off situation from the decontamination process is when decontamination must be conducted immediately to save the lives of personnel/patients

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contaminated who are either unable to reach the decon corridor or before the formal decon corridor can be established.

It is the responsibility of the local jurisdiction to provide decon capability for their community. State HazMat teams may provide technical assistance as requested.

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