



Post-Fire Air Monitoring

STRUCTURE FIRESPOST FIRE AIR MONITORING

To establish a standard operational procedure to be used at all fires and other incidents when the possibility of atmospheric hazards are present. The goal is to reduce the risk of exposure to toxic levels of certain hazardous gases, specifically Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN), encountered in the post fire setting.

PRIORITIESThe priority will be firefighter safety, health and wellness. Occupant exposure will also be addressed.

POST FIRE MONITORING

When a fire has been extinguished, ventilation will be established so visibility is not impaired, the Incident Commander shall order the structure monitored for air quality. The IC vehicles and the Primary Fire Apparatus will carry the post-fire air monitors. The Command officer will be responsible to conduct the post-fire air monitoring, however any firefighter may be assigned this duty. All firefighters shall become proficient in the use of these monitors.

Atmospheric monitoring will occur in all post-fire situations. The values of the monitored gases will be at or below the established (NEFC) permissible limits prior to personnel entering the area without the use of SCBA. Firefighters may only enter the area without the utilization of SCBA after atmospheric monitoring has occurred and upon declaration by the Incident Commander that it is safe to do so. (The NEFC permissible limits have been set at or below the established permissible limits of OSHA or NIOSH.)

Continuous atmospheric monitoring will continue at all times NEFC personnel are occupying the fire area and the results shall be documented every 10 minutes and/or if

one of the following conditions occurs: a 5 ppm increase in a reading is observed or when one of the readings exceeds the permissible limit. If a reading exceeds the permissible limit, SCBA must immediately be utilized and/or the area vacated and ventilated. The readings shall be documented on the Post Fire Air Monitoring Worksheet and attached with the incident fire report.

Consideration for air monitoring should be considered at all of the following incidents also.

Electrical Fires

Kitchen Fires

Transformer Fires

Car Fires

Dumpster Fires

Fire Reported Out

Any other time the IC thinks a toxic gas may exist.

NEFC Permissible Limits: Carbon Monoxide (CO) < 35 ppm, Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) = 4 ppm This policy does not preclude a fire fighter from wearing respiratory protection at any time.

District Chiefs will turn on the CO meter at every detail including EMS details.