



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD**

SAFETY BULLETIN

NUMBER: 15-01

April 22, 2015

Subject: Wash Your Hood Sunday Program / Cancer Prevention

MCFRS personnel on-duty on Sundays should wash their protective firefighting hood(s) in accordance with the manufacturers recommended maintenance and cleaning instructions. If not on-duty on Sundays, hood(s) should be washed at least once a month. MCFRS personnel should also wash their protective firefighting hoods after any exposure to an atmosphere that is immediately dangerous to life and health or a hazardous and/or toxic atmosphere.

MCFRS Policy 06-10 *Personal Protective Equipment and On-duty Apparel Policy for LFRD Volunteer Personnel* and DFRS Policy and Procedure 504 *Protective Clothing* outline the process personnel must follow for the care and maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment.

In the light of the growing scientific information linking cancer to firefighting, and in an effort to promote the health and wellness of MCFRS personnel, an immediate action that can be taken to protect yourself from carcinogen exposure is to wash your firefighting hood.

Captain Rick Triplett has developed the concept of Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday which has now turned into a national initiative of the Firefighter Cancer Support Network and supported by Honeywell First Responder Products to get firefighters to wash their hoods. Information on the program can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/HoneywellFBWYHS>

Firefighting is dangerous in more than one way. Medical studies have demonstrated statistically higher rates of cancer occurring in fire fighters as compared to the general public. Moreover, in the past 5 years, FROMS has identified 37 life-threatening illnesses among MCFRS personnel during their annual physicals, twelve of which were cancer. Those cancer diagnoses do not include cancer diagnosed by outside medical providers, adding to the total number of MCFRS personnel who have had a cancer diagnosis.

By implementing the Wash-Your-Hood-Sunday program and by cleaning your hood after an exposure, MCFRS hopes to reduce the incidence of cancer among all MCFRS personnel.

Posters about the program will be sent to all stations and worksites to be placed where all personnel have access to view.

Attachment: Stanfield's Maintenance & Cleaning Guide

Issued by A/C Michael E. Nelson, Jr., Chief Health and Safety Officer

Maintenance and Cleaning

Warning

*Do not use Chlorine Bleach
Or any detergent containing Chlorine Bleach
Do not dry clean*

Hoods are to be washed with regular detergent in warm water not higher than 130°F (50°C). Due to the low replacement cost of hoods, the warranty, and the nature of knit fabrics, hoods are difficult to repair; therefore it is not recommended that hoods be repaired. Any hood with a seam, fabric, or face opening failure should be returned to the manufacturer for inspection.

Storage

Hoods must be cleaned and thoroughly dried prior to storage. Hoods may be stored with other gear but should be kept with clean gear. Plastic ziplock bags are preferred for long duration storage. Hoods. Should be kept out of sunlight.

Disposal

All hoods, including those that have been contaminated chemically or biologically, should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations.



"The Protective Hood That Goes On Easy.
Seals Tight."

Lifetime Warranty

Life Liner's™ Easy Seal™ protective hoods are warranted to be free from defects in material or workmanship at any time during their useful life. Like all warranties, this warranty does not cover normal wear or unusual exposure (acid, rips on nails, etc.).

STANFIELD'S.

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