

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Firefighter's Personal Protective Clothing Taping Guidelines for Quick Rescue Operations in a Chemically Contaminated Building

The scene of a deliberate release of a chemical agent might require firefighters, wearing personal protective clothing (including butyl gloves) and using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), to enter a chemically contaminated building to effect quick rescue of people who are still alive and close to the entrance way. As an added safety precaution, firefighters should use duct tape or other suitable tape to “seal” openings as noted below. (Wrap the tape three times and use three strips as applicable.)

If available, RSDL (Reactive Skin Decontamination Lotion) should be applied on the skin around the outside of the face piece and also on the neck of each member of the “quick rescue team.” Obviously, this must be done before the protective hood is donned.

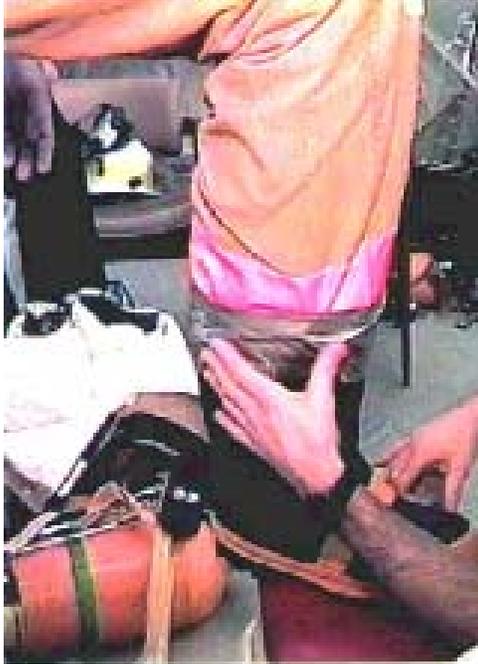
- Boots to turnout pants
- Fly of turnout pants
- Around turnout pants at waist level
- Front closure of the coat
- Coat collar to hood
- Hood to the face piece and the earlaps of the helmet
- Coat cuffs to the gloves

It is important to remember that after the firefighters' personal protective clothing is “taped,” heat stress will increase over time. Therefore, members of the “quick rescue team” should limit their physical exertion and work time in the contaminated area as described in the quick reference titled, *A Systematic Approach to Rescue Operations*, or as modified by the Incident Commander based on risk assessment, in consultation with the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT) Duty Officer.

The Incident Commander must ensure that the other safeguards detailed in the quick reference are also followed. This is an initial short-term operation, i. e., less than five minutes

(See the reverse side for pictures of taping procedures.)

Taping of Firefighters' Personal Protective Clothing



Taping of boot



Taping of collar, storm flap, waist and gloves

“Preparedness is the key to effective incident management”



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