

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Hazardous Materials/Contaminated Protective Clothing		
Policy Number: 511.13	Effective Date: 3/29/2018	Page Number: 1 of 2
Authority: Commissioner	Originating Division: Facilities Division	Access Listing: Level I: All Access

I. Introduction and Summary:

This standard establishes guidelines to be followed when uniforms, protective clothing, or items of personal protective equipment are Contaminated by known or suspected hazardous materials. All Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC) certified firefighters at both State and County Prison Fire Departments who enter the Warm Zone or the Hot Zone at a hazardous materials incident must adhere to this policy.

II. Authority:

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards: 471, 1581, and 1500.

III. Definitions:

- A. **Decontamination** - The neutralization or removal of dangerous substances, radioactivity, or germs from an area, object, or person.
- B. **Hot Zone** - Refers to a potentially Contaminated area. It generally entails the use of special equipment to protect occupants, because there is a high risk of contamination.
- C. **Warm Zone** - Refers to the area between the Hot Zone and the Cold Zone, where decontamination occurs. Only specialized personnel who are appropriately dressed are permitted in this location.
- D. **Cold Zone** - Refers to an area that is considered free from Contamination and that may be safely used as a planning and staging area.
- E. **Decontamination Sector** - Refers to the Warm Zone and the area where the decontamination process is completed.
- F. **Contaminated** - The presence of dangerous substances, radioactivity or infectious materials in an area, on an object, or on a person.

IV. Statement of Policy and Applicable Procedures:

- A. Anyone who enters the Warm Zone or Hot Zone at a hazardous materials incident, run the risk of becoming Contaminated by hazardous materials.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS Standard Operating Procedures		
Policy Name: Hazardous Materials/Contaminated Protective Clothing		
Policy Number: 511.13	Effective Date: 3/29/2018	Page Number: 2 of 2
Authority: Commissioner	Originating Division: Facilities Division	Access Listing: Level I: All Access

1. Firefighters must pass through the Decontamination Sector prior to being allowed to enter the Cold Zone.
 2. Firefighters should discard any hand tools and equipment at the entrance of the Decontamination Sector so they can be decontaminated.
 3. After the firefighters have been rinsed off and decontaminated as much as possible, they shall proceed to the final area where a decontamination worker will assist them in removing protective clothing.
 4. All articles of Contaminated protective clothing shall be placed in a bag, then sealed and tagged. The tag should list the contaminant, the contents of the bag, the firefighter's name, the time and date.
 5. If a firefighter's work uniform has been Contaminated, he or she should proceed to a showering station. After showering, he or she should dry off their body and change into clean clothes. The firefighter shall be afforded all due privacy.
 6. Contaminated uniforms and articles of personal clothing should be bagged, then sealed and tagged. Towels and other items used to dry off should also be placed in a bag for decontamination or disposed.
- B. The Station Chief will determine if contaminated items are salvageable. Items that cannot be properly decontaminated shall be disposed of in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- C. Items that may be decontaminated shall be returned to the firefighter after being properly decontaminated.

V. **Attachments:** None.

VI. **Record Retention of Forms Relevant to this Policy:** None.