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Exposure Reduction at Fire Incidents

P-236.1 PURPOSE & SCOPE

To reduce exposure to products of combustion and unknown toxins to on-scene personnel during operations in IDLH atmospheres.

P-236.2 POLICY

San Mateo County Fire Chiefs require that all fire personnel shall follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

P-236.3 REFERENCES

N/A

P-236.4 PROCEDURES

The Incident Commander should confer with other officers to determine the location of the safety zones. Based upon the determined parameters, the following guidelines will be used.

Safety zones should be established using the following guidelines (Appendix A)

Hot Zone/Exclusionary Zone: The emergency operational area which presents the highest risk and requires the highest level of personal protective equipment, and requires the enacting of the “two-out” policy. The hot zone should include a 20’ radius around the burning structure(s).

Warm/Contamination Reduction Zone: The area immediately outside of the hot/exclusionary zone. Activities in this zone are usually in support to operations in the hot zone and do not usually require the same level of Personal protective equipment.

Cold/Support Zone: The area immediately outside of the warm zone where support operations occur such as incident command, rehabilitation and staging. This area is inside the perimeter and excludes the general public. Operations in the Cold/Support Zone require a minimal level of personal protective equipment. Consider the use of air monitoring in this area.

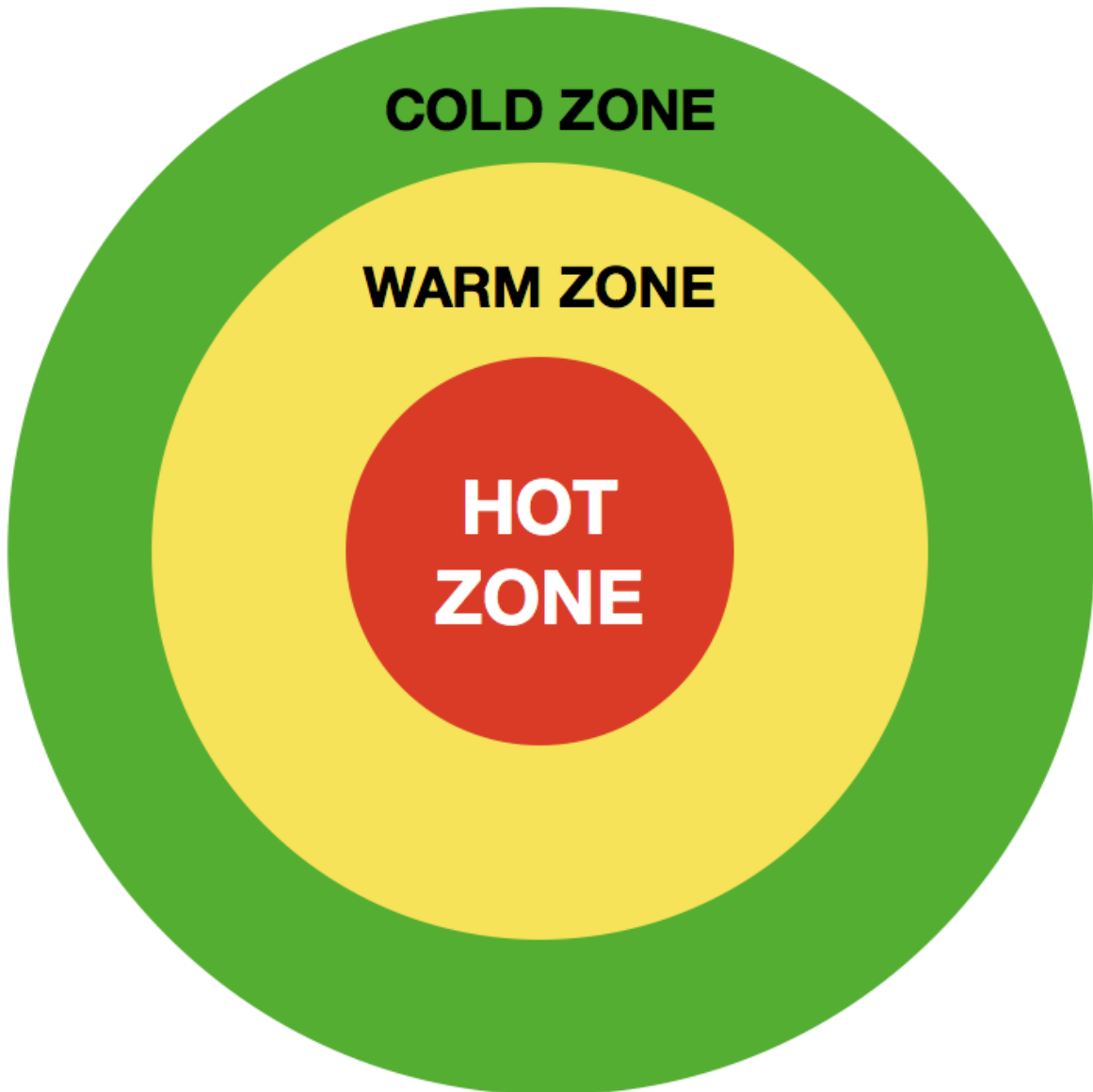
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1. All personnel operating in the hot zone shall breathe supplied air through a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) or other supplied air system for the duration of the incident including firefighting operations, overhaul and fire investigation.
2. Decontamination shall occur prior to entering cold zones (rehab, staging, demobilization) and be completed before leaving the scene. (Appendix B)
3. After removing PPE, use body wipes or soap and water to remove as much soot as possible from head, neck, jaw, throat, underarms and hands immediately.
4. Contaminated gear should be bagged prior to departing the scene.
5. Contaminated PPE should be transported outside the passenger area of an apparatus. Bagged material for personnel with sedans, coupe, and SUV's shall have gear taken with engine companies from the same department assigned to the fire.
6. Personnel should shower, change clothes and rehydrate as soon as possible after returning from an incident.
7. Further re-entry into a previously established hot-zone after the scene has been released shall require appropriate respiratory protection and appropriate PPE. Examples of re-entry include for equipment retrieval, investigation, or critiques.
8. All response personnel shall follow home agency policies and procedures related to P.P.E. Decontamination.
9. All response personnel shall follow home agency policies and procedures regarding exposure reporting.

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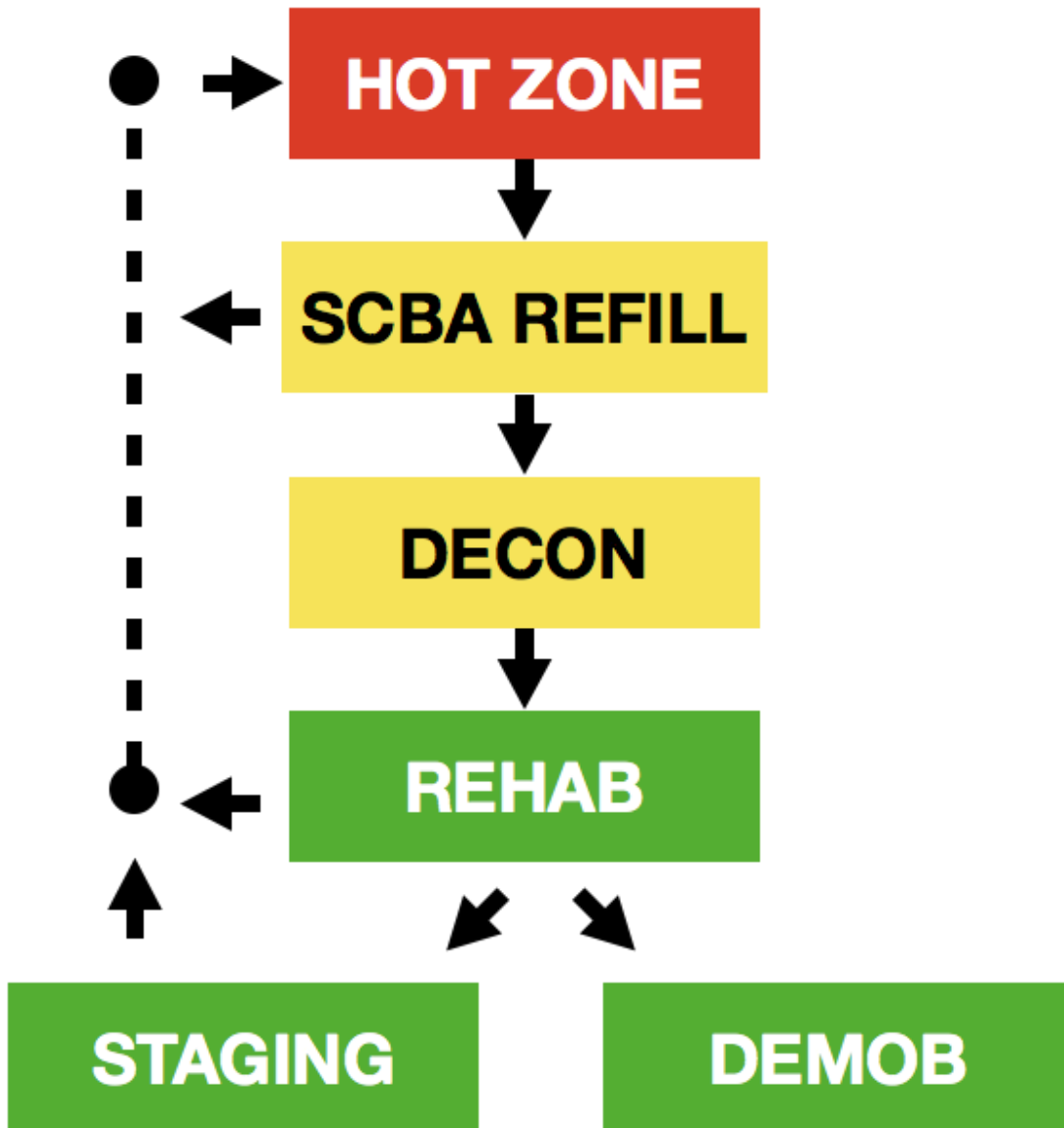
Appendix A: Safety Zones



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Appendix B:

DECONTAMINATION PATHWAY



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APPENDIX C: DECONTAMINATION BUCKET CONTENTS

Suggested Inventory:

- Garden hose w/ spray nozzle (or booster line)
- Dawn or other dish soap
- Clear trash bags
- Short handled stiff brushes (gong brushes)
- Pack of Body wipes
 - Adult invalid type wipes or fire service branded wipes