

## MONITORING APPARATUS

The primary monitoring device used during the study was the UVHoundFR™ portable UV spectrometer by CEREX Monitoring Solutions LLC. This detector was used in conjunction with the following detection equipment to provide a variety of sampling methods:

- Hapsite ER™ portable GC-MS; INFICON
- HAZ-Dust EPAM 5000™ particulate meter; Environmental Devices Corporation
- BW gas alert Micro5™ electrochemical detectors; Honeywell
- iTX™ electrochemical detector; Industrial Scientific Corporation
- PAC III™ electrochemical detector and CMS Chip Measuring System; Dräger Safety
- Chromair™ Mercury detection badges; MORPHIX Technologies
- Arsine and Acrolein colorimetric tubes; GASTEC CORPORATION
- MiniRAE™ PID – UV broad range detector; RAE Systems
- TIMS flame spectrophotometer; PROENGINE

To ensure the integrity and proper functioning of all equipment, technicians were trained on instrument calibration and synchronization. The technicians performed daily calibration of all portable monitoring equipment, including ensuring all instrument times were exactly synchronized so a direct comparison based on time could be gathered after extracting data post-fire. All equipment had clean filters and proper dates were documented for tubes and sensors. Select media was refrigerated per manufacturer specification. A daily log with signatures from study personnel was kept for calibration and equipment checks.

Temperature and humidity were measured each morning and calibrated to the local thermo hygrometer and local meteorological recordings. The temperature and humidity measurements were taken at each fire from multiple locations. Temperatures recorded during this study never exceeded operating parameters for the variety of instruments used. Temperature corrections for the GASTEC acrolein and arsenic tubes were necessary on occasion and were used per manufacturers' listed equations<sup>8</sup> at each event applicable.

During the study it was noted that the hydrogen chloride (HCl) direct read electrochemical detector was reporting high levels of this chemical at the same time and with high correlation to nitric oxide (NO) and CO. The levels reported were always at an approximate 1:3 relationship with NO. This suspicious data prompted an accuracy test using a separate electrochemical device and a colorimetric device alongside. It was determined (and verified by the company's sensor data) that the HCl sensor used was cross sensitive to NO. Subsequent fires were then monitored using the PACIII<sup>TM</sup> and CMS chip system<sup>TM</sup> by Drager which are not cross-sensitive.

In general, the device testing highlighted problems with the common practices of relying on electrochemical sensors to determine toxicant levels other than CO, such as HCN or HCl. It was found that not all electrochemical sensors are alike, and their readings should be approached with caution and with an awareness of potential false results. Electrochemical sensors, a standard atmospheric detection method used by fire departments, commonly give false readings in the presence of interferents such as NO, carbon oxides and even humidity. This proves especially problematic at fire scenes where hundreds of chemicals likely exist.

Using a large photo ionization detector (PID) lamp (miniRAE 2000<sup>TM</sup> 10.6 IP) may have potential value as an indicator for the presence of many hydrocarbons and common airborne hazards at fires. The use of a standard size PID lamp, available from many manufacturers in multi-gas detectors, proved ineffective as compared to the larger lamp dedicated to PID use. Only 1 of 37 fires had obtained a PID measurement with the smaller PID unit from BW by Honeywell, where the larger PID from RAE systems provided consistent measurements at each fire. The team added a correction factor of 1.8 to the instrument based on 10 expected chemicals found and the manufacturer's published correction factor sheet (TN-106, correction factors for mixtures).

A description of the monitoring equipment and their minimum limits of detection (LOD) for each chemical are presented in Appendix A. Monitors were also compared to each other for validation of findings and this information can be found in Appendix B.

## RESULTS

### Chemicals Studied

In the overhaul phase of a fire, there is the potential for a large number of chemicals to be liberated. Based on previous studies<sup>1,2,4</sup> and toxicologist recommendations, the chemicals monitored in this study were reduced to a set of known probable carcinogens, common toxicants, and particulate at less than 10 µm in size.

Thirty-eight fires were evaluated from June 6, 2009 to February 2, 2010. Of these fires, 22 involved single family residences, 5 were apartment residences, 2 barn fires, 3 commercial/industrial structures, 4 involved recreational vehicles, and 1 was an adult foster care home. One additional fire, a single family residence was added from the beginning of the program in 2008. The monitoring was well documented, including proper calibration practices and valid on-scene monitoring performed. Appendix C, Fire Structure Descriptions and Conditions, describes all fires studied in detail.

During the study period the following chemicals exceeded National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) levels: *Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)*, *acrolein*, *carbon monoxide (CO)*, *arsenic*, and *mercury*.

The following chemicals were present at or above the Oregon OSHA Short Term Exposure Limit (STEL) or NIOSH Recommended Exposure Level - Short Term (REL – ST) levels as applicable but below IDLH levels: *Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)*, *hydrogen chloride (HCl)*, and *carbon monoxide (CO)*.

The following chemicals were found present at or above the Oregon OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit Time Weighted Average (PEL-TWA): *Arsenic*, *acrolein*, *benzene*, *carbon monoxide (CO)*, *formaldehyde*, *glutaraldehyde*, *hydrogen cyanide (HCN)*, *hydrogen chloride (HCl)*, *mercury (Hg)*, *ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)*, *nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)*, and *particulate matter (otherwise undifferentiated) (<10 µm diameter)*.

Exposures	OSHA TWA PEL (ppm)	NIOSH REL ST (ppm)	IDLH (ppm)	# fires analyzed	# fires found	#>PEL	#>STEL	#>IDLH
Acrolein	0.1	0.3	2	11	4	4	4	2
Aldehydes (total aliphatic)	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	29	19	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ammonia	50	35	300	29	8	0	0	0
Arsenic	0.05	n.d.	3	8	2	2	n.a.	1
Benzene	1	5	500	29	10	3	0	0
Benzyl chloride	1	1	10	12	3	0	0	0
Carbon disulfide	20	10	500	3	3	0	0	0
Carbon monoxide	50	200	1200	38	30	3	1	1
Formaldehyde	0.75	2	20	29	4	0	0	0
Furfural	5	n.d.	100	3	3	*n.a.	*n.a.	*n.a.
Glutaraldehyde	n.d.	0.2	n.d.	12	12	n.a.	*5	n.a.
Hydrogen chloride	5	5	50	37	8	5	1 very near IDLH	0
Mercury vapor	0.012	n.d.	0.24	29	5	3	n.a.	1
Naphthalene	10	15	250	37	7	0	0	0
Nitrogen dioxide	5	1	20	37	28	13	22	1
Nitrogen monoxide	25	n.d.	100	29	28	0	0	0
Ozone	0.1	n.d.	5	29	21	17	n.a.	0
Phenol	5	5	250	29	9	0	0	0
PID	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	19	19	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Sulfur dioxide	5	5	100	29	2	0	0	0
Styrene	100	100	700	29	25	0	0	0
Toluene	200	150	500	29	27	0	0	0
Particulates (<10 µm)	5	n.d.	n.d.	21	21	14	0	0

**Table 1 - Summary of measured chemical levels**

Toxicants where findings exceeded NIOSH (REL- ST) or OSHA (IDLH) levels are shown in bold. A detailed description of all known and probable carcinogenic chemicals that were positively identified during the study is located in Appendix D.

\* presence not confirmed (near detection limit or qualitative indication only)

n.a.: not analyzed

n.d.: not determined

NOTE: Not all chemicals were sampled at every fire due to equipment failures or insufficient personnel.

### Chemicals Studied Discussion

The toxicants found at the most incidents exceeding established threshold values and thereby posing the greatest acute danger to responders were NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, HCl, glutaraldehyde, and acrolein.

The results indicate that many other chemicals do not generate significant acute hazards on their own during overhaul periods; specifically phenol, styrene, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, naphthalene, and toluene. "Total Aldehydes" has the potential of describing a severe overexposure depending on the aldehydes present, so the actual aldehydes present deserves further study. The glutaraldehyde numbers indicated severe overexposure to responders as well, and quantification should be confirmed in the future. CO did not seem to be a good indicator of the other chemicals present and will be discussed in the Carbon Monoxide Correlation section.

Mercury's presence was unexpected, but is most likely explained by the presence of fluorescent bulbs and electric switches, among other possible sources. Arsenic detection, in the form of elemental arsenic or arsine, was determined to be due to CCA (copper chromium arsenate) or similar treated wood, which when burned at a high temperature allows the arsenic to sublime and escape its bond in the wood<sup>12</sup>. Hirata et al<sup>13,14</sup> performed an isothermal pyrolysis of CCA-treated wood and reported that most chromium and copper content from the wood was retained to some degree in the fly ash, however the majority of the remaining arsenic content had evolved into a gas or aerosol state.

Ozone levels; although below IDLH, were significant and persistent throughout many fires. The average maximum ozone level reached over 27 events was 0.740 ppm with several maximum peaks individually above 2.0 ppm. Ozone exposures have been documented in some studies<sup>4</sup>, but due to the absence of specific monitoring equipment in previous studies it has not been studied substantially.

The information gained from this study generally supports findings from earlier studies<sup>1,2,4,5</sup> and supplements the standard list of toxicants present during the overhaul phase of fires with mercury, ozone, and arsenic.

### Carbon Monoxide Correlation

Fire departments currently rely upon carbon monoxide levels as the standard for determining acceptable atmospheric conditions. The data shows that there is no statistically significant correlation between CO levels and levels of other chemicals. For example, a comparison of CO to nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) present during overhaul gave a correlation r value of 0.2652, CO compared to ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) gave an r value of -0.0278, CO compared to particulate values gave an r value of 0.079, and CO to toluene gave 0.23. In comparison to the remainder of chemicals analyzed, CO levels were not found to be indicators of any others present. Fifty seven measurements of CO versus NO<sub>2</sub> were compared at various locations in and near the fire building on each incident. The CO detectors (2 in many cases) were compared to other instruments (within 3 feet) and measured at the "breathing zone." As evidenced by the following chart, CO levels did not show a sufficient correlating relationship to the NO<sub>2</sub> levels.

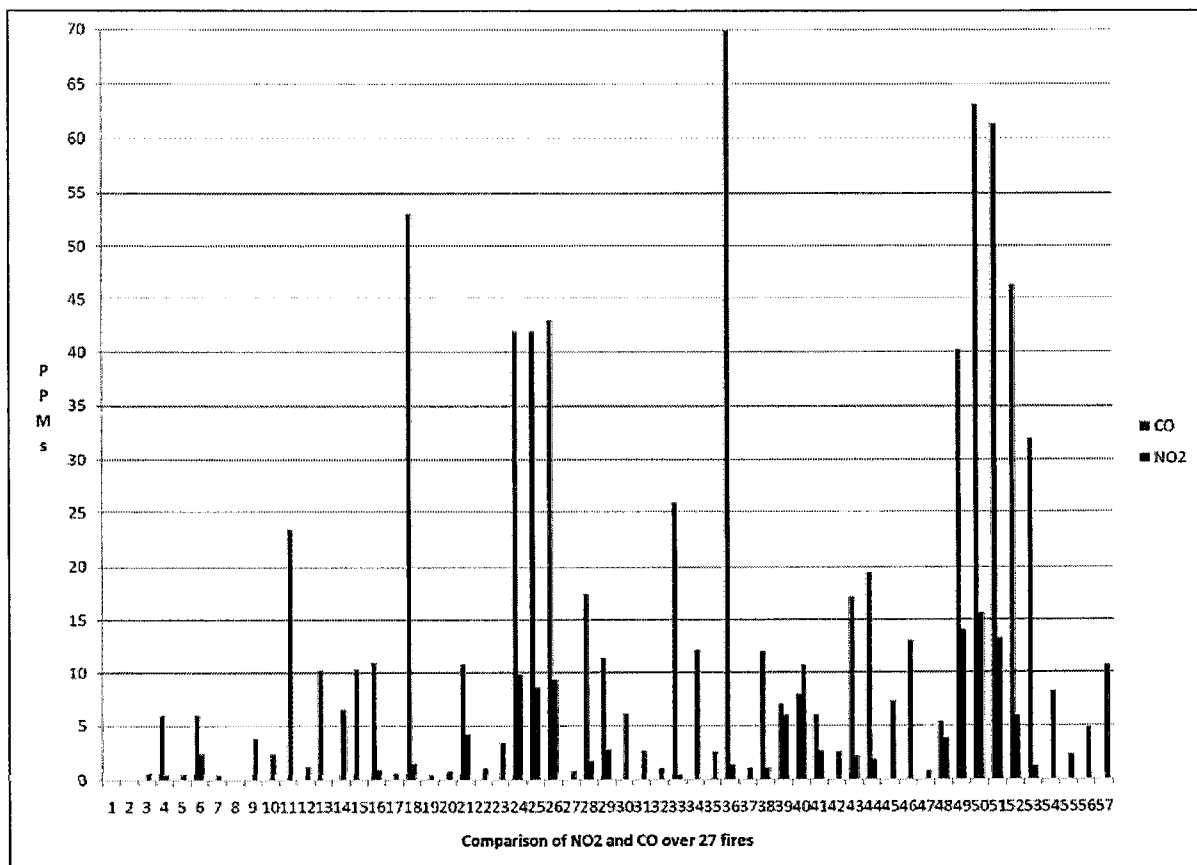


Figure 1 NO<sub>2</sub> and CO compared over 27 fires

Carbon monoxide was also compared to ozone and aliphatic aldehyde readings at 37 fires. CO levels were found below the 35-ppm threshold while ozone was measured at levels well above the PEL. In several instances, CO was not measurable and ozone remained above PEL. The relationship to aldehydes was found to be similar. Low molecular weight aldehydes found present additional hazards since some are known carcinogens and most are harmful by dermal contact. The following graphs demonstrate that CO cannot be relied upon to indicate when harmful levels of ozone or aldehydes are present.

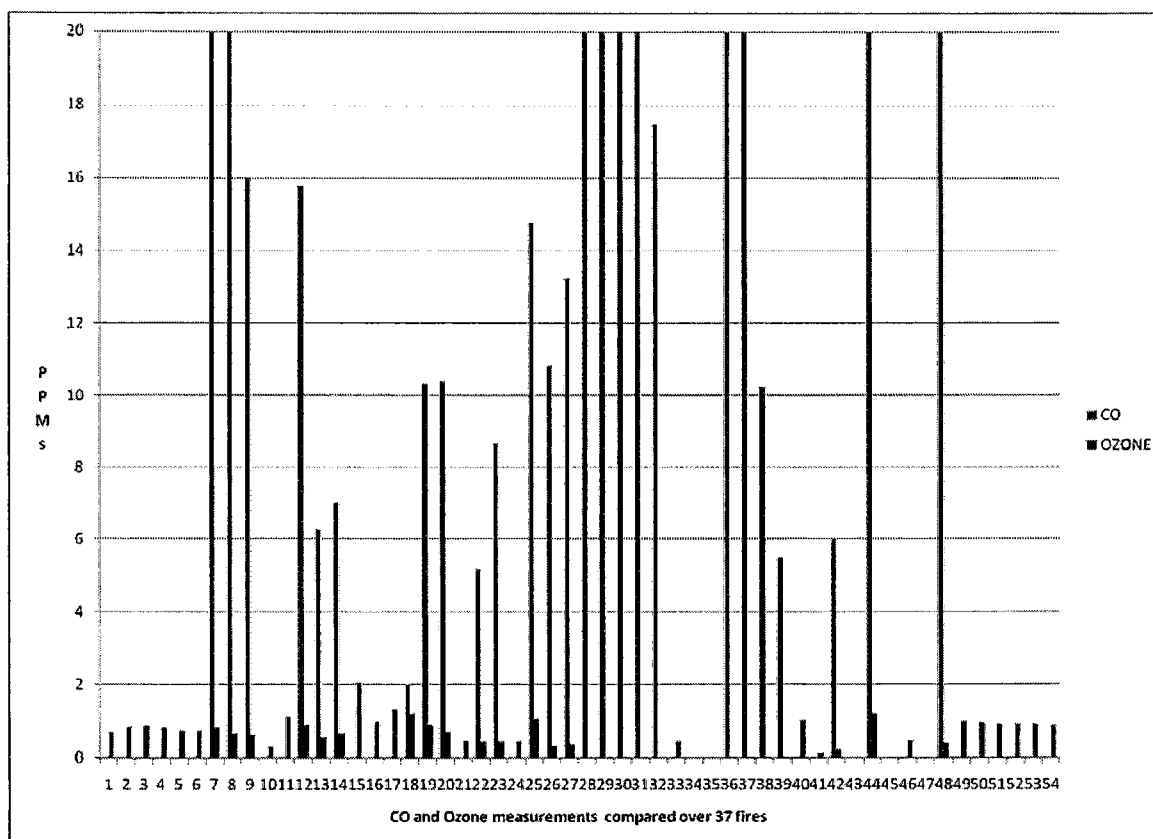


Figure 2. O<sub>3</sub> and CO compared over 37 firescomparison



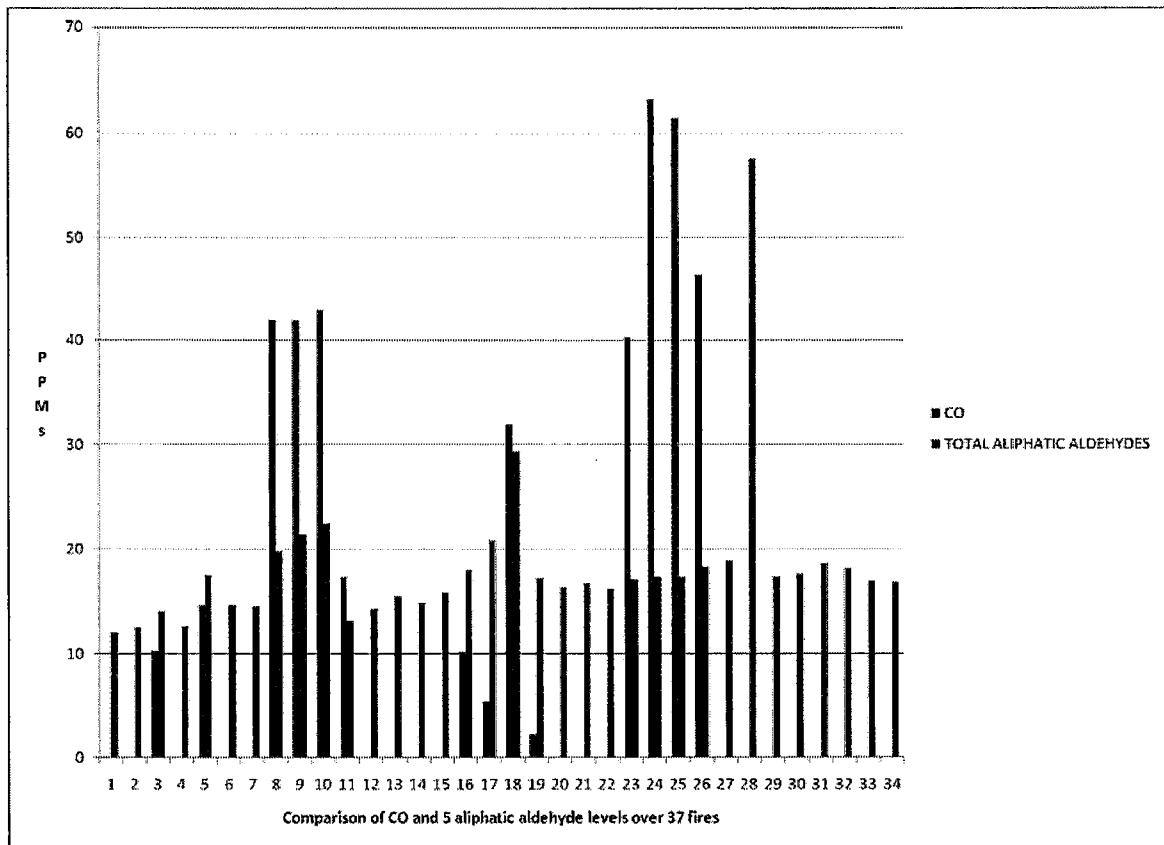


Figure 3. Aliphatic aldehydes and CO levels compared over 37 fires

### Chemical Correlation

In addition to carbon monoxide correlation, the authors sought to determine if there was a single chemical found in the products of combustion that would reliably indicate if other chemicals were present at unsafe levels. Data was collected from multiple monitors to determine if any other correlation existed.

Analysis of the UV spectrometer's measurements with respect to simultaneous chemical measurements showed some correlations. Specifically, the first four months of the study (June 6, 2009 to October 11, 2009) gave the following correlations of chemicals by this machine:

**r values 0.75 or higher:**

Ozone – NO<sub>2</sub>: 0.966

Toluene\* – Phenol\*: 0.943

**r values between 0.5 and 0.749:**

Toluene\* – Benzene: 0.564

Styrene\* – Benzene: 0.515

NOTE: Over this period the following chemicals were added to the UV spectrometer: benzene, formaldehyde, sulfur dioxide, styrene, nitrogen dioxide, nitrogen monoxide, toluene, mercury, phenol, naphthalene, ammonia, ozone, and total aldehydes. This period had 17 unique data sets over 643 separate events.

\*See Appendix A, footnote<sup>3</sup>, and Appendix B, pg 30 for further styrene and toluene discussion.

The next analysis was completed after UV spectrometer adjustments were made by the manufacturer based on the previous 4 months of data. Ozone spectra during that initial period were re-evaluated and a different absorption peak used to indicate its presence in future measurements. In doing so, NO<sub>2</sub> was eliminated as an interferent to ozone detection. During this next period of study, glutaraldehyde and benzyl chloride were also added to the spectrometer. Over this next period (October 12, 2009 to February 2, 2010) 12 unique data sets with over 476 separate events were evaluated. A strong correlation was made between aldehydes and phenol as well as toluene and glutaraldehyde respectively.

**r values 0.75 or higher:**

total aldehydes – phenol: 0.945

toluene – glutaraldehyde: 0.889

**r values between 0.5 and 0.749:**

styrene – benzene: 0.559

total aldehydes – benzene: 0.516

### Correlation discussion

The information supports earlier studies (Phoenix study 9-2000), that showed CO levels did not predict other chemicals' presence or concentrations at fire scenes. While the presence of some chemicals seems to predict that of others, there is no specific chemical that will reliably predict them all. Based on these results, active monitoring for nitrogen dioxide, ozone, acrolein,

and mercury at structure fires could improve decision making about the need for personal protective equipment.

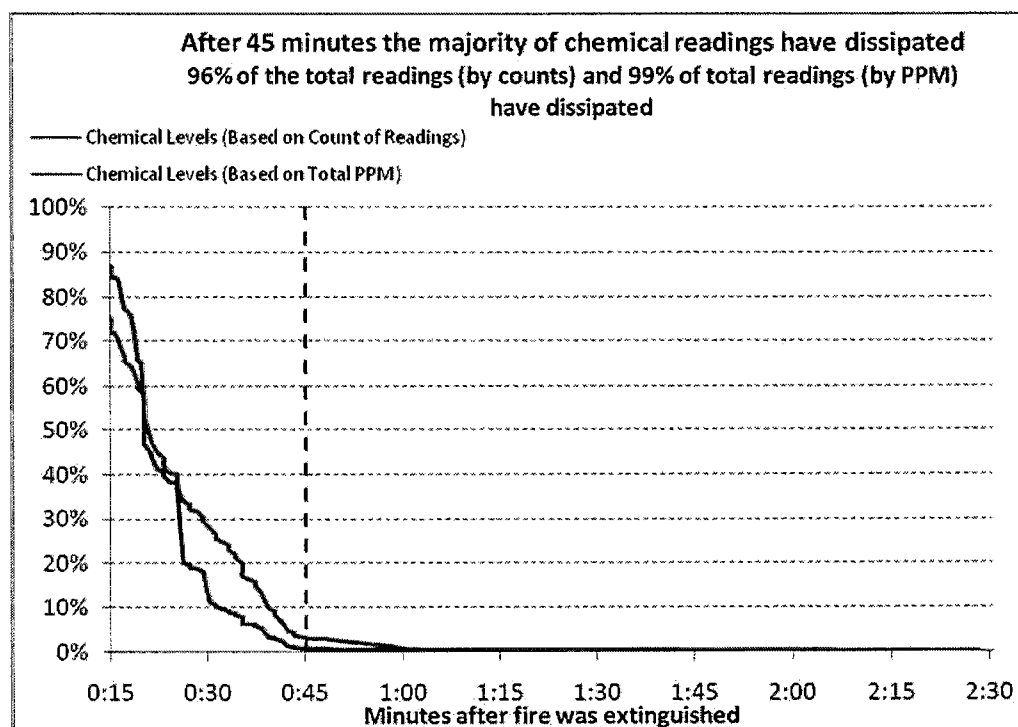
Correlation calculations were processed using the correlation tool of Microsoft Excel's<sup>TM</sup> Analysis Tool Kit; this uses Pearson's correlation coefficient, which is one measure of association between two variables. This association has been expressed as a number (the correlation coefficient) that ranges from  $-1$  to  $+1$ . The population correlation is expressed as the Greek letter rho ( $\rho$ ) and the sample statistic (correlation coefficient) is  $r$ .

### Chemical Dissipation

As part of the data analysis, 147 events were compared where CO was detected along with other chemicals. Chemical levels were recorded up to 65 minutes after the fire was knocked down (Graph 5). During this period of time, contents of the structures were cooling and either natural or mechanical ventilation had commenced. The study showed that there was a natural dissipation of chemical levels detected over the first 45 minutes post knock down. After 1 hour, most products had completely dissipated (Graph 4). Monitoring was typically discontinued after this period.

Due to the fact that hazardous airborne toxicants were documented many hours and sometimes days after extinguishment, this study could not conclude that time alone was a reliable determinate of safe atmospheric levels. The data did show that allowing more time after knock-down was beneficial and should be an important consideration when determining the best practices for firefighters during overhaul.

Natural and mechanical ventilation were not primary considerations of the study; however, a ventilation profile was developed for the same dataset to determine how ventilation affected the reduction of toxicants. Ventilation seemed to improve conditions (Appendix E); however, time after extinguishment seemed to have been a more significant factor in improving atmospheric air quality.



Graph 4. Chemical levels measured as a function of time

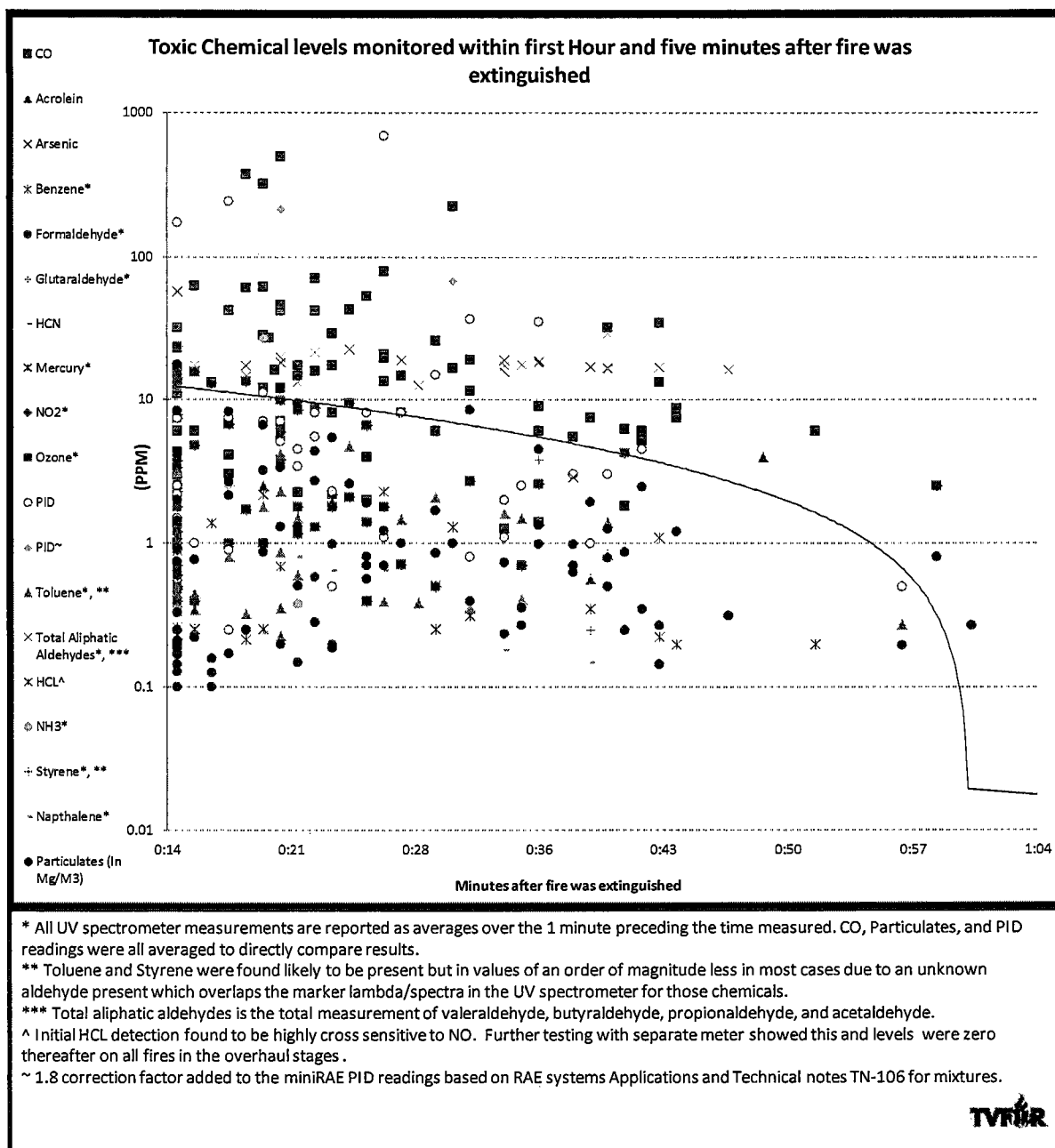


Figure 5. Graphical display of chemical levels as a function of time

## DISCUSSION

Our understanding of the toxicology associated with occupational exposure to harmful chemicals present after a fire is extinguished began in 1775 in an article titled *the Chirurgical Observations Relative to Cataract, the Polypus of the Nose, Cancer of the Scrotum*. The gist was that chimney sweeps were getting scrotum cancer from exposure to soot. A lot has happened to protect the public and workers from harmful chemicals that are present during and after fire extinguishment. Good hygiene played a key role in reducing dermal exposures to soot and scrotum cancer caused by contact with soot. However, hundreds of years later we are gaining a new understanding and appreciation of the potential harm that chronic low level multiple chemical exposures during overhaul phase of fire fighting can potentially pose to the health of first responders. The current study on firefighter chemical exposures during the overhaul phase using real time portable monitoring instruments demonstrated that many harmful chemicals are present in fires of different structural types at levels that exceed NIOSH's IDLH values. The chemicals of concern identified in the study included both organic and inorganic chemicals.

Some known human cancer causing agents were detected at trace levels. The perplexing toxicology question is whether the presence of these chemicals at low levels presents an increased health hazard to first responders. In toxicology we are acutely aware that even trace amounts of harmful chemicals can present a potential hazard, especially with synergistic or potentiating effects from repeated or continual respiratory or dermal exposure to multiple chemicals. Clearly, we need more toxicological research to determine the health impacts to firefighters from exposure to chemicals involved in overhaul.

In the absence of more definitive scientific data, we recommend precautionary measures to protect firefighters from potential harm. "The respiratory tract is the only organ system with vital functional elements in constant, direct contact with the environment. The lung also has the largest exposed surface area of any organ on a surface area of 70 to 100 square meters versus 2 square meters for the skin and 10 square meters for the digestive system".<sup>12</sup> We are finding that a great number of these chemicals that are involved in fires are being reclassified as human carcinogens in light of new scientific data. Our understanding of multiple chemical exposures is still in the distant future, but we can learn from the past by using good hygiene and avoiding unnecessary exposure, when possible, to potentially harmful chemicals in the overhaul phase.

The results of this study, along with those from previous studies<sup>1,2,4,5</sup> suggest that firefighters may benefit from changing on-scene practices after aggressive fire fighting activities are completed to further protect themselves from unnecessary chemical exposures. In this study, advanced monitoring technologies were utilized to gather the data; however, the authors and study partners are not asserting that this technology is the only component of a comprehensive approach to ensuring safe atmospheric levels for responders and investigators. Time, cooling,

and decontamination should also be considered when approaching activities post-fire attack during the overhaul and later stages of fire fighting.

### Firefighter Recommendations

This study demonstrates that time influences the levels of airborne chemicals post knock down. If crews are able to exit the structure as soon as reasonably possible and allow for the chemicals to dissipate naturally, their exposure will be reduced. Charts presented in this report illustrate the natural dissipation of toxicants over time. Timely replacement of crews working in the fire structure and allowing them to rehabilitate can also reduce the exposure times of individual crews. An additional benefit of timely crew removal is that it will allow fire investigators to gather information before a scene is further disturbed by overhaul.

The study shows that heat increases the liberation of harmful chemicals into the air. As fire crews cooled the materials and smoldering debris, there was a drop in the levels of airborne chemicals detected potentially reducing chemical exposure. Overhaul commonly must be performed within the structure, but applying water remotely if possible provides the most protection to firefighters. Ventilation was evaluated as it relates to the levels of toxicants and did assist in the reduction of airborne levels; however, toxicant levels rapidly increased when ventilation was discontinued. Further, when specifically used, gas powered fans were found to increase carbon monoxide levels. See Appendix E for data on ventilation.

The results of this study suggest that firefighters need to improve decontamination and personal hygiene practices post structure fire. Findings reveal that initial fire attack crews face the most significant exposure to a multitude of chemicals. Toxicologists have demonstrated that these chemicals pose an immediate threat to the respiratory tract and latent threat through cutaneous exposure.

Firefighters are aware of the respiratory hazards associated with the products of combustion and have policies and practices in place to protect themselves. Fire departments should also provide policy with regard to dermal exposure and the potential for contact with carcinogens. Known carcinogens and hazardous chemicals can attach themselves to structural personal protective equipment (PPE) and exposed skin. Firefighters may reduce their exposure to these chemicals by performing simple water decontamination on scene. Identifying chemicals, such as aldehydes and mercury, with advanced portable detection could provide information required for specific decontamination or future treatment.

At a minimum, policy should provide for simple decontamination on scene and expand to include machine washing of PPE after each fire and a thorough cleaning twice per year to reduce secondary exposure. Cutaneous exposure should also be addressed with better personal decontamination. Structural firefighting PPE generates body heat retention and increased perspiration in the wearer, resulting in dilated skin pores; this may result in enhanced dermal absorption. With proper use of PPE at structure fires, most toxicants will likely remain outside the epidermis; therefore, a wash down on scene and a shower at quarters could reduce further exposure.

The ability to monitor the air for particulate and harmful toxicants provides the best information to fire ground personnel. Discerning and quantifying the toxicants present not only indicates when it is safe to doff SCBA, it provides the information that dictates proper decontamination and post fire medical monitoring. This study demonstrates that a simple CO detector, or any other detection device by itself, cannot be relied upon to make this determination. Based on information obtained in this study, active monitoring for mercury, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and acrolein are highly encouraged. UV spectrometry was found to be a suitable technology in quantifying these chemicals in real time and at the low human health hazard levels needed during overhaul. Regardless of whether advanced monitoring equipment is available, firefighters may benefit from receiving physicals that would provide a baseline for comparison in the event that an exposure was suspected. Firefighters should also consider documenting construction type, materials, actions, and conditions for the fires that they respond to. This may be the only information available to isolate an exposure that causes injury or illness in the future.



### Fire Investigator Recommendations

This study did not specifically address the risks to fire investigators from airborne chemicals and particulate. The monitoring team typically completed their detection prior to fire investigator activities; however, conclusions can be drawn as to the potential risks based on data collected. Fire investigators enter structures that continue to cool over time, but there remains the potential for smoldering materials to liberate hazardous chemicals. Investigators commonly dig through the debris to determine cause and origin agitating particulate that had previously settled over time. As a result, investigators potentially face dermal and inhalation exposures that should be reduced through better practices. Further study to describe airborne hazards to investigation personnel is addressed in another section of this document.

Policies for investigators should outline respiratory protection and although SCBA is practical for firefighting operations, lengthy operational periods using SCBA pose an increased physical demand on investigators. SCBA use seems appropriate to reduce exposure initially, but use of lighter equipment in non-IDLH atmospheres should be considered. Supplied air respirators provide an alternative to the SCBA and similar amount of protection. They are considered positive pressure as long as they are qualitatively or quantitatively fit tested. Investigators in some departments use powered air purifying respirators or air purifying respirators. This study demonstrated that there is a vast list of chemicals and particulates liberated in a fire that cannot reliably be predicted or quantified without advanced detection. Air purifying respirators are limited by the selected filter and thus provide protection for a narrow range of the potential exposures.

Investigators can reduce hazardous dermal exposures by wearing inexpensive lightweight Level B chemical protective suits, gloves, and over boots. This PPE will provide dermal protection and can be disposed of prior to leaving the incident. Decontamination of equipment and clothing on scene and a shower after returning to quarters will also limit the exposure and should be a component of the policy.

Advanced detection equipment should be considered for use by investigators to provide information as to the airborne hazards. Current practices should be enhanced with the addition of UV spectrometers, IR spectrometers, particulate meters, PID's, or electrochemical detectors.

### Study Limitations

While we attempted to evaluate and characterize toxicant levels at fire scenes the study conditions were not comparable to the same rigorous and controlled conditions a laboratory setting could provide. This study specifically used actual fire scenes, with on-scene portable, real-time monitoring in order to evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of that equipment at these scenes. We thus did not use the NIOSH Manual of Analytical Methods standards and therefore expected some degradation of data quality.

Data from this study were gathered using multiple detection methods to provide for direct device comparisons. We compared our data to that in previous studies.<sup>1,4,5,6</sup> The comparisons to other studies data, with respect to levels of toxicants found, were expected to be within an order of magnitude when comparisons were possible. These comparisons were subject to the differing detection conditions of each study (i.e. time of detection after fire knock-down, time elapsed after sorbent tube or summa canister was evaluated versus real-time measurement, and detection technology differences).

Every effort was made to ensure equipment were calibrated daily, all filters and equipment were clean before each shift and adjustments for pressure, temperature and humidity were observed during data acquisition. However, due to the nature of fire scenes, the widely varying atmospheric conditions, and even potential air current differences between detection devices to name a few, there existed multiple opportunities for instrument differences and error.

Interpreting the results for the main instrument, a long path UV spectrometer to other devices proved problematic. The UV spectrometer had a sample air flow of approximately 15 ft<sup>3</sup>/min. This flow converted to SI units was 4.25 X 10<sup>5</sup> ml/min. and the device averaged its detection over a one minute period. The other devices used had much smaller sampling flow (5 ml/min to 300 ml/min depending on device) and some were point sampling devices. The electrochemical sensor devices used recorded data that was then downloaded and averaged as necessary to compare to the UV spectrometer, however other devices used were incapable of constant monitoring. The GC-MS device used had a method which allowed constant monitoring as an option; however, that method was for ppm level detections only and was determined to be unsuitable for the lower levels needed during this study.

The location of the devices to one another also presented a potential data gathering discrepancy. The devices were kept apart by a minimum of 8 inches (electrochemical sensors, and CMS chip system device), and typically 2-3 feet apart for the larger devices (UV spectrometer, GC-MS, particulate meter, and flame spectrophotometer). The goal was to keep the devices close enough to assume similar air volumes were being sampled, however not so close that a larger device such as the UV spectrometer would be "stealing" the air from adjacent lower-flow devices.

Additionally, throughout a fire-scene, measurements were taken for sometimes an extended period of time. Firefighters were not able to change filters during an incident, as it would have required them to leave the scene, remove contaminated clothing, re-glove etc... in

order to properly ensure a clean filter were replaced. The accumulating dirty filters at these scenes provided a means where toxicants being measured could potentially be accumulating in these filters and greater than actual results could have been measured toward the later stages of each incident.

Further, the detection equipment operators at these scenes often had to manipulate tubes and chips using gloved hands, where soot and particulate had likely accumulated. The sample inlets of all devices at each scene had potential exposure to soot and particulates through the devices being bumped or rubbed against contaminated surfaces. Every attempt was made however to neatly, carefully, and purposely carry each device to each sampling area. Pictures and occasional video confirmation at each fire proved useful to documenting this practice. This study did not document specific fire personnel exposure to toxicants, rather the study focused on areas where fire personnel were working or likely to work during the overhaul stage. The areas were then measured and assumptions made on potential exposure to fire personnel. The data did not include exact locations of crews with relation to monitoring sites or specific concentrations, and no attempt was made to specifically link a specific exposure to any responder.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE STUDY

Careful consideration of gas monitoring practices with respect to other interfering factors such as fire apparatus and gas powered fans should be considered. In fourteen events where CO was measured adjacent to gas fans outside of the structure, five events exceeded the NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limit (REL). These results were not intentionally staged for measuring CO production, rather recognized from photographs and instrument data logs. Similar data were unintentionally documented from rehabilitation areas and fire apparatus staged near the incident.

Newly observed toxicants at fire scenes were identified in this study such as mercury arsenic and ozone. Because little to no literature exists on these toxicant's presence at fire scenes, they should be considered in future work. As previous studies<sup>1,4</sup> have suggested further data is also required on firefighter exposure to low molecular weight aldehydes (glutaraldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, et al) and should be a priority. Toxicologists remind us that exposure to trace levels of harmful chemicals and the synergistic effects of multiple chemicals may increase our risk for cancer. The synergistic and potentiating effect of these chemicals also requires further study.

The intent of this study was not specific to fire investigators; however, a reasonable conclusion can be drawn as to the hazards they encountered based on the results. Providing fire investigators with advanced technology monitoring equipment should be a priority. Data collected from chemical and particulate detection could provide a better understanding of the protection required to reduce exposure.

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## DISCLAIMER

Specific policies regarding the best practices for personal protective equipment and respiratory protection must be established by individual departments. The best practices outlined in this report and principles of time, cooling, decontamination, and monitoring are recommendations based on the study results.

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## APPENDIX A

## Analytical Limits of Detection (LOD) and Devices Used

Analyte	Number of Fires Device Used/ Times Chemical Found above LOD	Device(s) used	LOD (Limit of Detection)	Published Device Precision <sup>4</sup>
Acrolein	12, above LOD 4 times	GASTEC colorimetric tubes	2 ppm	Standard Deviation (SD) 10%
Aliphatic Aldehydes, Total value of valeraldehyde, acetaldehyde, butyraldehyde, propionaldehyde	29, above LOD 19 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC)	Various LODs. Less than 1 ppm for each	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Ammonia	29, above LOD 9 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC)	UV: 0.015 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Arsenic compounds	8, above LOD 3 times	TIMS Flame spectrophotometer, GASTEC colorimetric tube	TIMS: 1.6 ppm, tube 1.5 ppm, E-C sensor 0.1 ppm	TIMS = (+/-) .5 ppm, e/c sensor= 0.1 ppm
Benzyl Chloride	12, above LOD 3 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite(ER)™ portable GC-MS	UV: 0.01 ppm, GC-MS low ppt	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Carbon Monoxide	38, above LOD 30 times	iSC™ ITX and BW Micro5™ electrochemical sensors	E-C sensor: 1 ppm	Repeatability: 1% of signal. Linear output.
Carbon Disulfide	3, above LOD 1 time	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS	UV: 0.094 ppm, GC-MS low ppt	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Formaldehyde	29, above LOD 4 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Drager CMS measurement system™	UV: 0.5 ppm, CMS: 0.2 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Glutaraldehyde	12, above LOD 12 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS	UV: estimated 0.01 ppm, GC-MS unpublished	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Hydrogen Chloride	37, above LOD 8 times <sup>2</sup>	iSC™ ITX and Drager PAC III™ electrochemical, Drager CMS measurement system™	E-C: 0.2 ppm (max 30 ppm), CMS 1 ppm	CMS = (+/-) 10% of reading
Hydrogen Cyanide	25, above LOD 6 times	iSC™ ITX and BW Micro5™ electrochemical, Drager CMS measurement system	E-C: 0.3 ppm (max 30 ppm)	Linearity <5%
Mercury Vapor	29, above LOD 5 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Chromair™ Colorimetry	UV: 0.01 ppm, colorimetry: 0.12 mg/M3(hr) (max 3.2 mg/M3(hr))	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Naphthalene	29, above LOD 7 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ Portable GC-MS	UV: 0.01 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Nitric Oxide	29, above LOD 28 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC)	UV: 0.02 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Nitrogen Dioxide	37, above LOD 28 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), BW Micro5™ electrochemical	UV: 0.12 ppm, e-c : 0.2 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Ozone	29, above LOD 21 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), BW Micro5™ Electrochemical	UV: 0.012 ppm, e-c: 0.02 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Phenol	29, above LOD 9 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS	UV: 0.01 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Phosphine	9, above LOD 1 time <sup>1</sup>	BW Micro5™ electrochemical	E-C: 0.1 ppm	Repeatability: 2% of signal. Linear output
Styrene <sup>3</sup>	29, above LOD 25 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS, Drager CMS measurement system™	UV: 0.04 ppm, GC-MS low ppt,	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Sulfur Dioxide	29, above LOD 3 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS, Drager CMS measurement system™	UV: 0.02ppm, GC-MS low ppt, CMS: 0.4 ppm	UV = (+/-) 1% of reading
Toluene <sup>3</sup>	29, above LOD 27 times	UV HoundFR™ (CEREXMS LLC), Hapsite (ER)™ portable GC-MS	UV: 0.04 ppm, GC-MS low ppt	UV = (+/-) of reading
Particulates (<10 µm)	26, above LOD 26 times	EPAM 5000™ light scattering nephelometer (particulate meter)	EPAM: 0.001 mg/M3	EPAM= (+/-) 7.66% coefficient of variation

<sup>1</sup> Suspect arsenic was present not phosphine as sensor is directly cross sensitive.

<sup>2</sup> Suspect cross sensitivity of iTX™ sensor to NO and CO, HCl probably not present. Drager PAC III™ HCl sensor not cross sensitive to NO or CO.

<sup>3</sup> Styrene and toluene were found present with UV spectrometry and confirmed presence by GC-MS corroborates the UVHoundFR results, however quantification likely over-reported due to presence of unknown aldehyde (see Appendix B for explanation).

<sup>4</sup>Published device precision is listed to describe a manufacturer's stated device detection "accuracy" under controlled conditions and at standard temperature and pressures. Many variables existed during this study which had the potential to change or degrade a specific device's precision at a fire scene including but not limited to: Differing temperatures, pressures, humidity, unknown chemical interferents and filter accumulations. The expected error created by the sum of these factors was no more than +/- 10% of any device's readings, device dependent.



## APPENDIX B

## Monitoring Apparatus Technology Description

UV HoundFR™

The main monitoring instrument employed during this study was a portable UV spectrometer. This device measured 15-20 chemicals with a resolution of 0.2 nanometer (NM) wavelength between the UV spectrum of 185 NM and 400 NM. The device used a deuterium lamp source and a 15 cubic ft<sup>3</sup>/min. pump, a miniature spectrometer and advanced computational software. The device measured the chemicals in a path length of 17 meters allowing reliable chemical detection down to low ppb for most chemicals. The formula for quantification for this device was dependent on the path length.

Beer's law describes the method employed for computation of quantities measured by UV absorption:

$$A = \epsilon bc$$

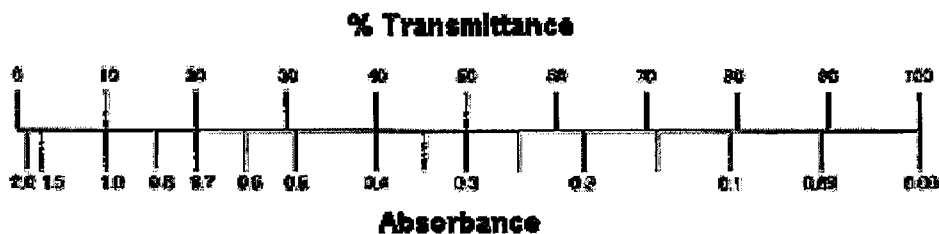
Where **A** is absorbance (no units, since  $A = \log_{10} P_0 / P$ ). Absorbance is measured by the device and is used by the software in the quantification. Absorbance can be related to transmittance as seen in the picture below.

**$\epsilon$**  = the molar absorptivity of each specific chemical with units of L mol<sup>-1</sup> cm<sup>-1</sup>. Each chemical to be measured has a specific calculated molar absorptivity.

**b** = the path length of the sample. This is the path length in which the UV light is shined to absorb the chemical. In the UV HoundFR the UV light beam path length totaled 17 meters due to specialized mirrors located within the device.

**c** = the concentration of the compound, expressed in mol L<sup>-1</sup>

Solving for C expresses an absorbed gas quantity. Solving for units can then show standard measurement in parts per billion.



**\*Manufacturer's Note on Toluene Data:**

The influence of an unknown compound was determined to have caused the CLS regression analysis in the UV spectrometer to "false positive" toluene detections in many data sets reviewed. Toluene and this unknown compound share a fairly similar lambda max, which potentially confused the regression. This is further corroborated by the lower than expected R2 value occasionally observed given the concentrations of toluene being reported.

**\*Manufacturer's Note on Styrene data:**

In sample data sets reviewed it appears that the presence of low levels of styrene is being influenced by another compound, most likely an aldehyde of some form. The additive nature of DOAS can cause an increase in concentration readings for compounds that are present in the spectra. Another possible source of concentration error could be in the value set in the Cerex reference library. Further study will be needed to identify if this is an influencing factor.

**\*Manufacturer's Note on R2 value:**

Low R2 values were most commonly found for benzene during the study. When R2 values were found acceptable, high concentrations of benzene were present; therefore, rendering correlation analysis between benzene and other chemicals suspect. Baseline shift and shared spectra absorption regions complicated the true value of the lower concentration chemical.

**INFICON HapsiteER™**

This device was a portable quadrupole gas chromatograph, mass spectrometer from INFICON. This device used a mass spectrometer which detected chemicals from 41 to 300 AMU at a scan rate of 1000 AMU/second at 10 pts per AMU.

The device used an electron multiplier for detection, with 70 eV electron impact and non-evaporative getter (NEG) pump in its design. The dynamic range is listed as 7 decades.

Gas chromatograph column – 15 meters, RTX-1ms, 0.25 mm inside diameter, 1.0 µm d.f. at a temperature range of 45° C to 200° C.

## Monitoring Apparatus Validation

Following were three incident fires where the UV HoundFR™ spectrometer was used alongside the INFICON HapsiteER™ GC-MS.

DATE	Chemical	UV Hound	INFICON GC-MS	Chromair Hg strip
1/18/2010 #1	Benzene	2.0 ppm	N.A.	
1/18/2010 #2		1.419 ppm	1.22 ppm	
1/31/2010 #1		1.16 ppm	1.72 ppm	
1/31/2010 #2		1.03 ppm	2.04 ppm	
2/2/2010 #1		1.96 ppm	0.69 ppm	
2/2/2010 #2		0.355 ppm	0.350 ppm	
1/18/2010 #1	Naphthalene	N.D.	Present.	
1/31/2010 #1		0.621 ppm	Present	
1/31/2010 #2		0.666 ppm	N.A.	
2/2/2010 #1		N.D.	Present	
2/2/2010 #2		0.143 ppm	Present	
1/18/2010 #1	Toluene	R2 not acceptable	0.12 ppm	
1/18/2010 #2		0.12 ppm	0.15 ppm	
1/31/2010 #1		R2 not acceptable	2.0 ppm	
1/31/2010 #2		R2 not acceptable	0.13 ppm	
2/2/2010 #1		2.29 ppm (R2 value low)	0.12 ppm	
1/18/2010 #1	Styrene	R2 not acceptable	1.36 ppm	
1/18/2010 #2		0.368 ppm (low R2)	1.56 ppm	
1/31/2010 #1		0.347 ppm (low R2)	2.94 ppm	
1/31/2010 #2		0.368 ppm	0.35 ppm	
2/2/2010 #1		0.236 ppm	0.89 ppm	
2/2/2010 #2		0.202 ppm	0.026 ppm	
1/31/2010 #1	SO2	0.184 ppm	Present	
1/31/2010 #2		0.188 ppm	Present	
1/12/2010 #1	Mercury	0.026 ppm	N.A.	0.02 ppm
1/12/2010 #2		0.023 ppm	N.A.	0.014 ppm

### Notes regarding data represented:

- UV HoundFR™ was typically in the fire-gas atmosphere and measuring much earlier than the GC-MS device as the GC-MS device took longer to be ready to sample.
- UV spectrometer and GC-MS were time synched to ensure a direct comparison of readings.
- The device's inlets were placed about 2 feet apart, at the same room height (~3-4 feet high).
- UVHoundFR™ sampled at 15 ft<sup>3</sup>/min. in 1 minute increments and then gave an average over that period. The GC-MS device sampled 5 ml of air (ppm method) or 100ml of air (ppb method) over a 1 minute

period and then an additional 10-15 minutes separating the chemicals in the gas chromatography column was required after the sample times.

The following were additional tests conducted over four dates where the UV HoundFR™ spectrometer was used alongside the INFICON HapsiteER™ GC-MS.

DATE	Chemical	UV Hound	INFICON GC-MS
12/2/2009	Benzene	4.003 ppm	4.78 ppm
1/19/2010		0.628 ppm	2.64 ppm
1/30/2010 test 1		0.739 ppm	1.111 ppm
1/30/2010 test 2		R2 not acceptable	0.047 ppm
1/30/2010 test 3		R2 not acceptable	0.190 ppm
1/24/2010 test 1		R2 not acceptable	0.035 ppm
1/24/2010 test 2		0.100 ppm	0.0877 ppm
12/2/2009	Naphthalene	0.499 ppm	Present
1/19/2010		0.968 ppm	Present
1/24/2010 test 1		0.249 ppm	Present
1/24/2010 test 2		0.436 ppm	Present
1/30/2010 test 1		N.D.	Present
1/30/2010 test 2		0.016 ppm	Present
1/30/2010 test 3		N.A.	N.A.
12/2/2009	Toluene	0.863 ppm (low R2)	0.260 ppm
1/19/2010		0.826 ppm (low R2)	0.170 ppm
1/30/2010		N.D.	0.053 ppm
1/24/2010 test 1		0.0057 ppm	Present
1/24/2010 test 2		0.0079 ppm	Present
12/2/2009	Styrene	0.175 ppm (low R2)	0.710 ppm
1/19/2010		0.116 ppm (low R2)	2.83 ppm
1/24/2010 test 1		0.179 ppm	N.D.
1/24/2010 test 2		0.139 ppm (low R2)	0.005 ppm
1/30/2010 test 1		N.D.	N.D.
1/30/2010 test 2		N.D.	N.D.
1/30/2010 test 3		N.D.	N.D.

**Notes regarding data represented:**

- UV HoundFR™ was typically in the fire-gas atmosphere and measuring much earlier than the GC-MS device as the GC-MS device took longer to be ready to sample.
- UV spectrometer and GC-MS were time synched to ensure a direct comparison of readings.
- The device's inlets were placed about 2 feet apart, at the same room height (~3-4 feet high).
- UVHoundFR™ sampled at 15 ft<sup>3</sup>/min. in 1 minute increments and then gave an average over that period. The GC-MS device sampled 5 ml of air (ppm method) or 100ml of air (ppb method) over a 1 minute period and then an additional 10-15 minutes separating the chemicals in the gas chromatography column was required after the sample times.

- **Present: No quantification available from that machine on this chemical. Verified presence of chemical only.**

Test 12/2/2009

In a 15'X15' fire room at Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's Regional Training Center, Sherwood, OR with wood pallets, straw and plastic materials set on fire:

Test fire was conducted where the portable UV HoundFR™ spectrometer was placed adjacent the HapsiteER™ portable GC-MS device. Sampling was completed in the smoke column and compared as shown in table above.

Test issues: The UV spectrometer was placed in the fire room window in heavy smoke several minutes before the GC-MS device was ready to sample. This timing allowed large hits of chemicals to be retained by the UV spectrometer before the GC-MS was ready to be placed in the smoke. The UV spectrometer was not designed for full smoke conditions. The GC-MS device inlet filter was also not replaced/cleaned before or after use.

Test 1/24/2010

Another test fire was conducted where the portable UVHoundFR™ spectrometer was placed adjacent the HapsiteER™ portable GC-MS device. Sampling was completed in the chamber of a wood pellet grill (inside grill at low temperature on start up) and in full smoke. Pellets were comprised of a hardwood composite.

Test issues: The UV spectrometer was placed in the wood pellet smoker several minutes before the GC-MS device was ready to sample. This timing allowed large hits of chemicals to be retained by the UV spectrometer before the GC-MS was placed in the smoke. The UV spectrometer was not designed for full smoke conditions. The GC-MS device inlet filter was also not replaced/cleaned before or after use.

Test 1/30/2010

In a 10'X12' utility shed an additional test fire was conducted where the portable UV HoundFR™ spectrometer was placed adjacent the HapsiteER™ portable GC-MS device. Sampling was completed in the smoke column created from burning a cloth and hardwood grill

pellets in a coffee tin. Test #3 a road flare was added to the ignited materials (noted high SO<sub>2</sub>

reading among data). See above table for comparisons.

## UV Spectrometer and Portable GC-MS Device Discussion

Measurable benzene values were consistently similar for both machines (including real incident fires), regardless of test condition or which machine was placed in smoke first. Toluene and styrene measurements by the UV spectrometer appear to have been averaged at a higher level (typically 1 order of magnitude) throughout the tests. The UVHoundFR™ manufacturers analyzed the data and concluded that the tests themselves were conducted in conditions that the spectrometer was not designed for. High levels of smoke and high (respectively) levels of benzene likely attributed to the consistently inflated readings of those chemicals. It is also possible that an unknown aldehyde was influencing the software analysis of the toluene and styrene reported levels. The typically lower R2 levels reported for those chemicals added to that suspicion. The manufacturer's recommended solutions to the toluene and styrene errant data involved: Only allowing higher R2 spectra matches to be included in the data ( $R2 > 0.7$ ), using the UVHoundFR™ in conditions that are not in heavy smoke conditions, and properly representing the averaging software, and high pump flow sampling method the device employs as compared to other devices.

A note on the instruments sampling differences: The UVHoundFR™ averages its readings over a one minute time frame. The 15 ft<sup>3</sup>/min. sample average is documented as the minute before the time stamp on each file (ie time 2:30 pm on a file is actually the average of the minute preceding 2:30 pm). The HapsiteER™ GC-MS takes a relatively small volume of air, either 5 ml or 100 ml depending on method chosen at the time given on each file. The volume of air is measured as a grab sample and not an averaged reading.

Toxic chemicals found in test fires and not reported in above tables:

12/2/2010 test fire: **Mercury at 320.0 ppb** (above NIOSH STEL) UVHoundFR™ detection  
Other chemicals found by GC-MS all at low ppb levels: Vinyl chloride, bromomethane, acetone, carbon disulfide, methyl ethyl ketone, 1,2 dichloroethane, chlorobenzene, ethyl benzene. Other chemicals reported were in part per trillion levels.

1/30/2010 test fire: **Mercury at 251.0 ppb** (above NIOSH STEL) UVHoundFR™ detection  
**HCl at 30.0 ppm** (above NIOSH STEL) PacIII™ electrochemical sensor detection.

## APPENDIX C

## Fire Structure Descriptions and Conditions

Fire date	Time of monitoring after fire extinguished	Fire type Category	Main products combusted (furniture, wood, roofing, mixed)	Atmospheric conditions	Ventilation profile	Highest concentrations	CO levels
4/4/2008	0 min	Residential	Wood, pressure treated wood	43° F, 81% humidity, wind 10 mph	Open, outside, vented	Arsenic: 3.8 ppm O <sub>3</sub> : 0.689 ppm max stel. Benzene: 0.26 ppm	300 ppm max
6/6/2009	29 mins	Residential	Attic (wood, comp shingles)	61° F, 64% humidity, wind 7mph	Vertical, PPV		CO: 0 ppm over event
6/7/2009	30 mins	Residential	Wood, siding, deck, room contents	55° F, 84% humidity, wind 5.8 mph	Vertical, PPV	O <sub>3</sub> : 1.5 ppm max. STEL	CO: 25-31 ppm over 40 sec
6/7/2009 Labrousse	0 mins	Barn	Wood, siding, barn contents	54° F, 86% humidity, wind 3.5 mph	Open, outside, vented	Particulate (outside) 10-12 mg/m3	CO: 33-189 ppm over 2 mins 13 - 170 over 2 min. 5 - 152 over 2 min. Ave. for event: 18 ppm
6/23/2009	15 mins	Commercial	Forklift + battery	76° F, 42% humidity, wind 4.6 mph	PPV fan, sprinkler	Arsenic: 1 ppm E/C sensor. Particulate up to 19 mg/m3	5-48 ppms over 48 min. STEL ave. 6 ppms over event
6/27/2009	4 mins	Residential	Shake Roof	82°F, 29% humidity, wind 0 mph	Vented through roof	O <sub>3</sub> : 1.1 ppm max 41 mins STEL. Particulate up to 16.9 mg/m3	CO: 3-41 ppm over 1 minute
6/28/2009	10 mins	Residential	Wood, siding	55° F, 69% humidity, wind 9.2 mph	Open, natural vent	O <sub>3</sub> : 0.62 ppm max STEL. Particulate up to 8.2 mg/m3	CO: 2-41 ppms over 34 min. STEL average 18.67
6/30/2009	21 mins	Residential	Vegetation, wood shake, minor attic involvement	57° F, 55% humidity, wind 0 mph	Roof open to outside	Particulate: 0.6 mg/m3 STEL	CO: 3-11 ppms over 6 min. STEL 2.27 average
7/10/2009	20 mins	Barn	Barn and contents (several autos)	73.9° F, humidity 56%, wind 0 mph	Open, roof gone	O <sub>3</sub> : 2 ppm max/STEL (above 0.5 for 15 min). Particulate	CO: 0 ppms over event
7/13/2009	27 mins	Residential	Attic member (wood), venting	65° F, 90% humidity. Clear day	Open-vented	Particulate: 0.6 mg/m3	Not analyzed
7/22/2009	24 mins	Residential	Wood, some kitchen contents	55° F, humidity 86%, wind 0 mph	Horizontal-PPV, back rooms not well vented	O <sub>3</sub> : over 1 ppm for 15 min. Particulate 2-2.3 mg/m3	CO: 2-3 ppms over event
7/23/2009	29 mins	Residential	Wood, siding, contents	64° F, humidity 63%, wind 0 mph	Vented, non-enclosed	NO <sub>2</sub> : 6.6 ppm. O <sub>3</sub> : > 0.5 ppm for 18 min. Particulate 19.6 mg/m3	CO: 10-125 ppm over 13 min 8-18 ppm over 10 min. STEL average 20 ppms



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7/30/2009	27 mins	Residential	Wood, contents of kitchen, insulation	88° F, 62% humidity	Vertical venting of structure	PID 4.5 max	CO 5-24 ppms
7/31/2009	47 mins	Residential	2 vehicles, wood siding and garage contents	80° F, 75% humidity. Sunny day	Horizontal fan vented, garage opened to atmosphere	UVHound not available. HCN 30 ppms 5 min	CO above 100 for 2 min. Max 466 near engine
Fire date	Time of monitoring after fire extinguished	Fire type Category	Main products combusted (furniture, wood, roofing, mixed)	Atmospheric conditions	Ventilation profile	Highest concentrations	CO levels
8/3/2009	13 mins	Commercial	Boxes, plastic, paper	84° F, humidity 40%, wind 6.9 mph	Horizontal ventilation, light smoke showing	Particulate: 7.4 mg/m3	CO: 54 ppm TWA
8/4/2009	27 mins	Commercial	Cash register, paper and plastic	66° F, humidity 64%, wind 7 mph	Horizontal/open windows. Natural vent.	UVHound not available. Particulate: 0.67 mg/m3, PID 12.0 ppm peak	CO: 0 ppm
8/10/2009	33 mins	Residential	Wood, insulation, plywood	70° F, 80% humidity, clear evening	Vertical natural ventilation	O <sub>3</sub> : 0.263 ppm over 7 min	CO 5-29 ppm over 20 min
8/11/2009	29 mins	Residential	Wood, contents of home/mixed	68° F, 78% humidity	Roof vented, home open	NO <sub>2</sub> : 19 ppms. O <sub>3</sub> 0.4 ppm, HCN: 7.1 ppm, 10 max. Particulate: 4.2 mg/m3	CO 6-36 ppm, 46 ppm peak
8/19/2009	27 mins	Residential	Structure and contents. Wood and siding/mixed	100° F, 28% humidity	Horizontal & natural vent.	O <sub>3</sub> : 0.4 -1.7 ppm 20mins. Particulate >1.6/15 min	CO 9-35 ppm/43 min
8/27/2009	14 mins	Motor Home - trailer	Structure and contents of motor home	76° F, 56% humidity. 89° F, and 55% humidity next to fire structure	Open/outside.	Formaldehyde: 0.35 ppm (same as CMS chip at 12:41) Particulate high peaks @ 17 mg/m3	CO 5-10 ppm
9/23/2009	20 mins	Residential	Paint, contents, some wood structure	72° F, 44% humidity, clear	Some PPV ventilation and horizontal openings	NO <sub>2</sub> : 2.5-10 ppm/10 mins Total Aldehydes 13-22.5 ppm. PID 18 ppm	CO 30-43 ppms over 26 min.
9/24/2009	13mins	Residential	Exterior siding and structure plus tree	58° F, clear evening	PPV and natural openings (window)	PID 25 ppm. Particulate 0.7 mg/m3. NO <sub>2</sub> 1.6-2.7 ppm	CO above 10ppm/12 min max 20 ppm

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9/26/2009	14 mins	Motor Home - trailer	Wood, vinyl and trailer contents	70° F, Nice/clear day	Open/natural outside ventilation	NO <sub>2</sub> : 0.5-6.1 ppm. Particulate 8-17 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	CO: 0 ppm
10/4/2009	25 mins	Residential	Wood, contents, T111 siding	58° F, clear evening	PPV ventilation with open windows	PID: 82 max, above 20/15 min NO <sub>2</sub> : 0.4-2.6 ppm	CO 6-36 ppm/16 min
10/11/2009	22 mins	Residential	Attic fire, no smoke inside	53° F, humidity 24%, wind 13 mph	PPV with roof vented by fire	NO <sub>2</sub> : 4-12 ppm. PID: 1-3.5	CO 5 ppm
10/12/2009	20 mins	Residential	Basement fire/kitchen in basement. Wood/cabinets/kitchen items melted	63° F, 70% humidity, clear evening	2 PPV fans at garage. Difficult ventilation in home	Acrolein: 2.5 ppm. Glut: 0.2-1.6 ppm /30 min PID: 10 ppm	CO 70 ppm/15 min, 200 ppm peak

Fire date	Time of monitoring after fire extinguished	Fire type Category	Main products combusted (furniture, wood, roofing, mixed)	Atmospheric conditions	Ventilation profile	Highest concentrations	CO levels
10/21/2009	26 mins	Residential	Structure and contents	58° F, clear	Ventilation not documented	O <sub>3</sub> : 0.4-1 ppm/4 min. Glut: 0.2-1.3 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 11.2 ppm. PID: 75.0 ppm, max 981.0	Not analyzed
11/4/2009	08 mins	Residential	Hallway, some apartment structure, wood siding and contents of one structure	64° F, Clear day	PPV ventilation, with natural window and door venting	Glut: 0.25-5.9 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 2-10.8 ppm, O <sub>3</sub> : 0.27-1.3 ppm	CO 38 ppm high. 10 ppm STEL high over 25 min.
11/10/2009	13 mins	Residential	Wood/cabinets some contents	75° F, Clear day	PPV ventilation with windows	NO <sub>2</sub> : 0.9 ppm, HCN: 0.2 ppm, PID 10.9 ppm	32 ppm high. 16 ppm STEL high over 30 min.
11/12/2009	13 mins	Residential	Laundry room fire to structure	45° F, 48% humidity	PPV with natural ventilation	Glut: 1.352 ppm, Benzene: 0.7-0.9 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 12.4 ppm, O <sub>3</sub> : 0.6 ppm	CO 43 ppm high 4 ppm, STEL ave. over 5 min.
11/14/2009	17 mins	Residential	Kitchen fire with structure, mostly contents consumed	50° F, 62% humidity	ppv at front and rear of structure	Glut: 1.05 ppm, O <sub>3</sub> 0.432 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 7.6 ppm, Mercury 0.255 ppm	CO 2 ppm over 1 minute
11/20/2009	10 mins	Residential	Deck, kitchen, family room contents	54° F - 59° F, 93% humidity	Natural ventilation. Large 10X10 opening at back	Total Aldehydes 18 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 7.6 ppm	Not analyzed

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12/12/2009	40 mins	Residential	Structure and room contents	23° F, 40% humidity	Open, natural ventilation	O <sub>3</sub> : 0.8 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 3.8 ppm, aldehydes 20.0 ppm, Particulates 17 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	CO 6 ppm over 2min. 4-10 ppm over 7 min. 5-12 ppm over 4 min. 5-529 ppm over 4 min STEL 26 ppm ave. over 4 min.
12/21/2009	17 mins	Residential	Contents fire. Chair, human, clothing, personal effects	52° F, humidity 86%, wind 11.5 mph	Well ventilated, PPV	NO <sub>2</sub> : 15.6 ppm, Aldehydes 18.0 ppm, O <sub>3</sub> : 0.9 ppm	CO 6-14 ppm over 2 min
1/12/2010	22 mins	Residential	Kitchen fire with structure, mostly contents consumed	48.9° F, humidity 93%, wind 0 mph	PPV fan ventilation	Mercury: 0.035 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : up to 40 ppm, Acrolein 1.7 ppm	CO 6-30 ppm over 4 min. 20-69 ppm over 31 min STEL ave. over 21 min
1/18/2010	49 mins	Motor Home / Trailer	Contents and minor structure	52.5° F, humidity 63%, wind 10.4 mph	Little ventilation. No PPV	Benzene: 1.58 ppm, Benzyl Chloride: 0.062, Phenol: 0.1 ppm	Not analyzed
1/31/2010	17 mins	Residential	Fire through roof, large fire including kitchen contents	67° F - 90° F Depending on location. 70% humidity throughout	PPV at front of garage. Natural including missing roof at kitchen at balance of structure	Benzene: 2.04 ppm, Naphthalene 0.645 ppm, SO <sub>2</sub> : 0.2 ppm	CO 5-42 ppm. STEL high 23 ppm. 6-44 ppm. STEL 23 ppm over 16 min.
2/2/2010	0 minutes	Residential	Deck, structure, dining area and ceiling spaces	53° F, humidity 66%, wind 5.8 mph	PPV at end of fire	Benzene: 1.96 ppm, O <sub>3</sub> : 0.367 ppm, NO <sub>2</sub> : 10.8 ppm	CO 16-610 ppm STEL 148 ppm over 11 min. 25-75 ppm. STEL 152 ppm over 16 min.

## APPENDIX D

### Potentially Harmful and Carcinogenic Chemicals Studied

Chemical	Cancer status/reference	skin designation	method of detection	Mean concentration detected (ppm) (when calculated)/fires detected
Acrolein	No	Skin	Tubes/GasTec	4 of 12 fires
Acetaldehyde	2B/IARC-NTP		UV spec/GC-MS	Present 12 of 12 fires
Arsenic	1/IARC-NTP		TIMs spectrophotometer/Micro-5	3 of 9 fires (including 1 additional test fire)
Benzene	1/IARC-NTP	Skin	UV spec/GC-MS/CMS	10 of 29 fires
Benzyl chloride	2A/IARC		UV spec/GC-MS	0.022/3 of 3 fires
1,3 Butadiene	1/IARC-NTP		GC-MS/UV spec	0.074/3 of 3 fires
Benzofuran	2B IARC		GC-MS	Present/1 of 3 fires
Carbon disulfide	No	Skin	UV Spec/GC-MS	0.016/3 of 3 fires
Carbon tetrachloride	2B/IARC-NTP		GC-MS	0.00021/1 of 3 fires
Coal Tar pitch	1/IARC-NTP		Reference only/light scattering particulate meter	possible at 26 of 26 fires
1,4 Dichlorobenzene	2B NTP		GC-MS	trace/2 of 3 fires
1,2 dichloroethane	2B		GC-MS	0.013/2 of 3 fires

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1,3 dichloropropane	2B/IARC		GC-MS	Present/1 of 3 fires
Diesel Exhaust	2A/IARC	Skin	GC-MS mixture by species	38 of 38 fires
Ethyl benzene	2B/IARC		GC-MS	0.051/4 of 4 fires
Formaldehyde	1/IARC-NTP		UV spec/CMS	4 of 29 fires
Furan	2B/IARC-NTP		GC-MS	Present/2 of 3 fires
Furfural	Possible (CPDB)	Skin	GC-MS	Present/2 of 3 fires
Glutaraldehyde	No	Skin (sensitizer)	UV Spec/GC-MS	Present/12 of 12 fires
Hydrogen chloride	No	Skin (Acid)	Drager electrochemical	8 of 37 fires
Hydrogen cyanide	No	Skin	Micro5 electrochemical	6 of 25 fires
Mercury	No	Skin	UV Spec/colorimetry	5 of 31 fires (including 2 additional test fires)
Naphthalene	2B/IARC-NTP	Skin	UV spec/GC-MS	11 of 37 fires
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	2A/IARC-NTP	Skin	GC-MS	Present/1 of 4 fires
Phenol	No	Skin	UV spec/GC-MS	9 of 29 fires
Styrene	2B IARC		GC-MS/UV spec/CMS	25 of 29 fires
Tetrahydrofuran	No	Skin	GC-MS	0.009/1 of 3 fires
Toluene	No	Skin	GC-MS/UV spec/CMS	25 of 29 fires
Vinyl Chloride	1 IARC/NTP		GC-MS	0.014/1 of 3 fires

IARC: International Agency for Research on Cancer

Group 1 carcinogens: known human carcinogens

Group 2 carcinogens: a) probable human carcinogen b) possible human carcinogen

NTP: National Toxicology Program

CPDB: Carcinogenic Potency Database

## APPENDIX E

STATE OF OREGON GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE POLICY COUNCIL AND TUALATIN VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

Average CO levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	43.84	113.33	51.19	10.07	54.8%	80.3%	
0:20	49.92	496.00	28.46	16.85	94.3%	40.8%	
0:25	27.71	78.75	29.88	12.79	62.1%	57.2%	
0:30	43.60	6.00	65.46	18.70	0.0%	71.4%	
0:35	5.88	0.00	5.75	5.97	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	12.81	0.00	17.27	7.23	0.0%	58.1%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	20.34	6.00	30.47	9.62	0.0%	68.4%	

Average Acrolein levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	2.50	0.00	2.50	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	1.90	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Arsenic levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	3.80	0.00	3.80	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	3.80	0.00	3.80	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.95	0.00	0.00	0.95	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.88	0.00	1.00	0.76	0.0%	23.8%	

Average Benzene* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.80	1.79	0.46	0.88	74.6%	0.0%	
0:20	0.69	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.60	0.51	0.62	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.35	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.51	0.00	0.65	0.23	0.0%	65.4%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.50	0.51	0.53	0.23	0.0%	57.7%	

Average Formaldehyde* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.47	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	0.39	0.00	0.58	0.20	0.0%	65.5%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.63	0.00	0.63	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.35	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.49	0.00	0.49	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Ozone* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.87	1.10	0.63	0.00	42.4%	0.0%	
0:20	0.75	0.00	0.87	0.81	0.0%	6.9%	
0:25	0.94	0.37	0.41	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.89	0.00	1.04	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.71	0.00	0.75	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.48	0.00	0.54	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.0%	0.0%	

Average PID levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	24.87	11.10	3.95	0.00	64.4%	0.0%	
0:20	4.54	0.00	5.58	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	177.88	0.00	8.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	11.18	0.00	2.25	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	10.38	0.00	13.67	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	3.75	0.00	4.50	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	8.78	0.00	8.33	9.23	0.0%	0.0%	

Average PID~ levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	14.75	27.00	0.00	2.50	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	215.00	0.00	215.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	68.00	0.00	68.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	68.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Toluene* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.88	0.00	0.60	1.09	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	1.48	2.29	1.76	1.06	23.2%	39.5%	
0:25	1.74	0.00	2.54	0.94	0.0%	63.2%	
0:30	1.39	0.00	1.73	0.36	0.0%	79.2%	
0:35	0.96	0.00	0.96	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	1.11	0.00	1.11	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	1.08	0.00	1.25	0.32	0.0%	74.5%	

Average Total Aliphatic Aldehydes*, *** levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	18.45	57.60	15.90	14.47	72.4%	9.0%	
0:20	18.07	0.00	19.88	15.35	0.0%	22.8%	
0:25	18.00	0.00	17.55	18.90	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	17.38	0.00	18.00	15.50	0.0%	13.9%	
0:35	14.21	0.00	14.21	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	19.87	0.00	23.15	16.59	0.0%	28.3%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	17.08	0.00	17.46	16.22	0.0%	7.1%	

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Average Glutaraldehyde* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.71	0.89	0.56	0.83	36.5%	0.0%	
0:20	1.11	0.00	0.71	1.50	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	1.37	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	2.37	0.00	1.60	3.13	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	1.79	0.00	3.13	0.46	0.0%	85.1%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	1.68	0.00	2.31	1.06	0.0%	54.0%	

Average HCN levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	2.33	0.00	2.50	2.00	0.0%	20.0%	
0:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.30	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.35	0.00	0.35	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Mercury* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.43	0.52	0.34	0.00	34.6%	0.0%	
0:20	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average NO2* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	4.91	1.70	7.03	4.40	0.0%	37.4%	
0:20	4.63	0.00	5.34	1.47	0.0%	72.5%	
0:25	3.82	0.40	4.20	4.40	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	1.30	0.00	0.70	1.60	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	2.60	0.00	2.60	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	4.20	0.00	0.00	4.20	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	2.20	0.00	1.65	2.48	0.0%	0.0%	

Average HCL^ levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	3.30	0.00	3.30	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average NH3* levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.38	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Styrene*, ** levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	2.03	0.00	0.25	3.80	0.0%	0.0%	

Average Particulates (In Mg/M3) levels at time range and ventilation							
Time	OverAll	Ventilation Level			Percentage reduction		
> or =	Average	0	1	2	1 over 0	2 over 1	
0:15	1.95	1.21	5.12	0.84	0.0%	83.6%	
0:20	2.85	0.00	3.54	2.25	0.0%	36.5%	
0:25	1.18	0.57	2.25	0.88	0.0%	60.7%	
0:30	1.71	0.86	2.44	0.32	0.0%	86.9%	
0:35	1.54	0.00	0.68	2.18	0.0%	0.0%	
0:40	0.86	0.00	1.17	0.48	0.0%	58.8%	
0:45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	0.0%	
0:59	0.17	0.86	1.45	0.97	0.0%	33.2%	



## PPE UPDATE

by Jeffrey O. and Grace G. Stull

*Sponsored by Globe*

# Firefighter research shows PPE exposure risk

**New testing examines how particles can penetrate firefighter protective gear with some surprising results**

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By Jeffrey O. and Grace G. Stull

In previous articles, we discussed how firefighters are exposed to a variety of fireground contaminants. We have even gone so far as to pinpoint the blame that many of these exposures primarily occur due to the lack of liquid-tight interfaces between the different parts of the protective ensemble.

Further, it is our opinion that the protective hood worn as an interface device is due for improvement. Our contention has been that the protective hood has the difficult function of having to create an interface with several ensemble parts that include the SCBA facepiece, the helmet and ear covers, and the coat collar.

Even when all these clothing item are properly deployed and worn as instructed by manufacturers, there are portions of the head and face that remain vulnerable due to the way that protective hoods have been institutionalized as part of the protective ensemble.

### RELATED ARTICLES

[8 ways to protect against cancer with PPE](#)

[How to improve the next-gen firefighter hood](#)

### RELATED CONTENT SPONSORED BY

We further echo the outcry from many other organizations that there is an unacceptable increase in the rate of certain cancers striking down firefighters.

### **Exposure risks**

While recent epidemiological studies appear to conclusively show that specific cancers occur at elevated rates as compared with the general population, there is a relatively difficult task to scientifically establish the cause link between fireground exposures at structural fires with the onset of specific chronic diseases including cancer.

Still, the International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified the occupation of firefighting as possibly carcinogenic and may change its findings to probably carcinogenic.

Exposure to cancer-causing agents likely occurs on the fireground as well as in the aftermath of firefighting activity, particularly if clothing is not cleaned. Firefighters lament that following a working structural fire, their work uniforms, under clothing, hair, and even their skin can continue to smell like smoke, sometimes even after repeated showers.

The fact is that fire smoke, which consists of minute particles, easily penetrates into the ensemble. And the problem is the unburned carbon that make up the bulk of those particles carry with them the toxic gases from the combustion process.

### **Particle infiltration study**

While you can see the smoke, the particles are actually quite small — most have a diameter less than a fraction of a micron (approximately a hundred thousandth of an inch). It is no wonder how these particles get into your skin. Yet the moisture barrier layers used in garments, gloves, and footwear will prevent even particles of this size from infiltrating the clothing.

To show how firefighters can be contaminated by smoke, the International Association of Fire Fighters commissioned full ensemble particle exposure testing at Research Triangle Institute in early January. This evaluation involved a used turnout clothing system, configured with a SCBA and worn by a test subject in a particle-laden chamber.

The evaluation was performed per the Department of Defense based Fluorescent Aerosol Screening Test procedures where the individual was subjected to a high-level concentration of



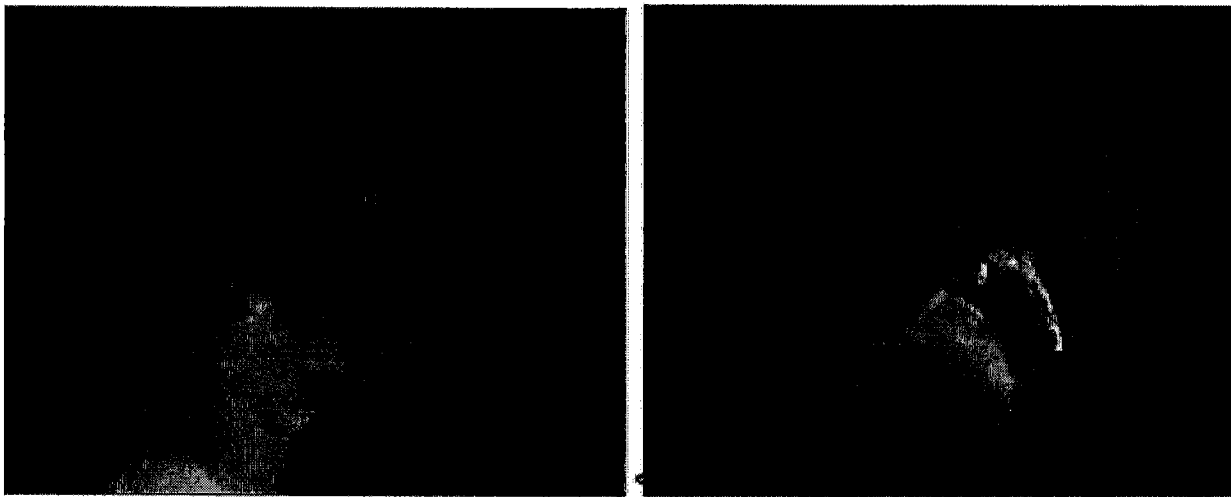
silica powder particles tagged with the fluorescent tracer having a particle size ranging from 0.1 to 10 microns. The test subject performed a variety of different movements over the course of a half hour while particles were blown through the chamber at 10 mph.

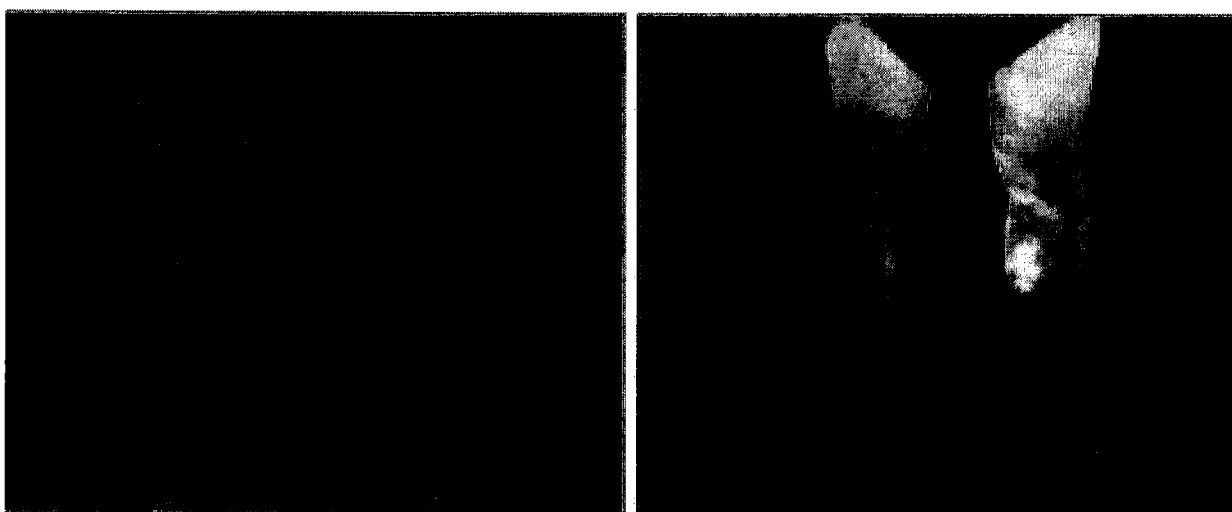
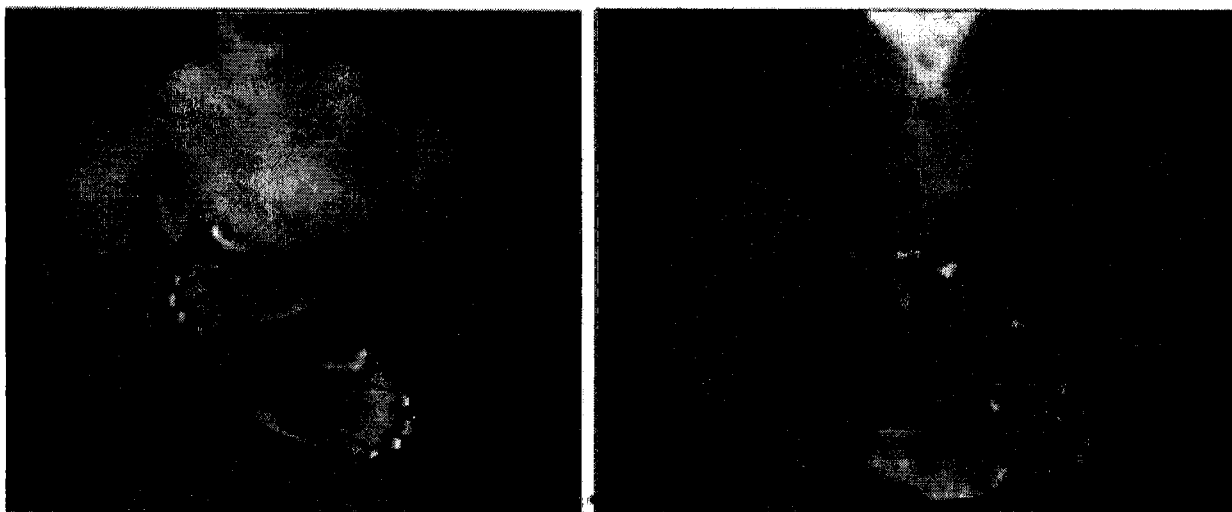
Following the exposure, the exterior of the garment was then wiped down and the ensemble carefully removed to avoid exterior particle transfer to the interior. Black light photography of the individual without the ensemble before the chamber exposure and after the exposure provided a means for detecting where inward leaking occurred.

The following pictures show the test and where the infiltration of particles was observed.

### **The results**

These results are extremely significant because they confirm the suspicion that a large amount exposure occurs to the vulnerable face and neck area that is not protected by the SCBA facepiece. The photographs also show particles entering the garment through the front closure and between the coat and pant interface to less significant extent.





Low levels of particle penetration were also observed at the glove-to-sleeve interface. But relatively surprising was the intensity of contamination on the calves above the boot line despite the extensive overlap between the pants and boots.

What these pictures show is what we have always known to be true, but never really cared to admit — smoke easily penetrates clothing, primarily at interface areas, and serves as pathway for firefighter exposure on the fireground.

This evidence should compel the fire service to take a serious look at the way it practices hygiene following a fire. This includes performing gross decontamination of gear at the scene, taking a shower as soon as possible following a structural fire as well as changing gloves and subjecting the gear to full cleaning.

The pictures also tell a story that the fire service industry may want to rethink how it approaches interfaces by developing clothing systems that create the least encumbrance while still trying to achieve some attenuation of particle infiltration.

It is one thing to write and speak about firefighter exposures, but it is an entirely different matter when pictures can tell you a truth about exposure that cannot be ignored.

## About the author

*Sponsored by Globe*

Jeffrey O. and Grace G. Stull are president and vice president respectively of International Personnel Protection, Inc., which provides expertise on the design, evaluation, selection and use of personnel protective clothing, equipment and related products to end users and manufacturers. They are considered amongst the leading experts in the field of personal protective equipment. Send questions or feedback to Jeff or Grace at [Jeffrey.O.Stull@FireRescue1.com](mailto:Jeffrey.O.Stull@FireRescue1.com). *The views of the author do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsor.*

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