

STRUCTURE FIRE – OVERHAUL

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- It has been scientifically proven that there is NO correlation between the CO reading and the quantity of other highly toxic molecules found in the atmosphere after a fire.
- Only significant cooling (45-60 minutes) reduces the amount of ultra-fine particulate production enough to allow for SCBA removal.
- Air Purifying Respirators (APR's) only protect from the specific particles they are designed for. **These are not substitutes for a SCBA.**
- **Avoid holding the first-in crews through the overhaul and monitoring phases of extended incidents to reduce fatigue related injuries and minimize exposure to toxins. Consider calling in additional overhaul and standby companies.**
- **SCBA use is the Gold-Standard for respiratory protection. Extended use is optimal and encouraged while on-scene.**

PROTOCOL:

- For the purpose of this protocol, the “OVERHAUL PERIOD” is defined as the period beginning after complete knockdown of the fire has been achieved.
- The IC, Safety Officer (ISO) and the On Call Investigator (if assigned) will develop an **OVERHAUL PLAN** after complete knockdown has been achieved.
- The Overhaul Plan will be based upon the following:
 - Maintaining area of origin for investigators
 - Structural stability
 - Structure type and contents
 - Amount and location of hot spots
 - Ability to safely remove contents
 - Availability of relief crews
 - Minimizing exposure and risk
- The IC will designate the **overhaul period**. The IC will request a **1 hour timer from ECSO**.
 - The overhaul period is a **MINIMUM of 1 hour after knock down AND** will continue for **at least 1 hour BEYOND last smoke seen.**
 - **During this time, SCBA use inside the HOT ZONE is required.** The Hot zone is defined as the area which sustained any fire involvement and damage. **In many cases this will be on the exterior of the structure too.**
- This applies to all personnel, **even investigators.** This duration can be adjusted by the IC depending on the scope and severity of the incident. Ventilation and remote water application can make a significant impact on the amount of time required prior to doffing SCBA.