

Cape Elizabeth Fire Department Policy & Procedure Manual

Policy:	Post Structure Fire Air Monitoring		
Section:	7.300: Fire Ground Safety		
Policy #	7.306	Date Effective:	07-1-2011

Purpose: To establish a guideline for monitoring air quality post structure fire suppression activities to determine if respiratory protection is required.

Responsibility: All fire department employees shall be familiar with the following department policies.

Policy:

1. When a fire has been extinguished and ventilation has been completed so visibility is not impaired, the Incident Commander may request to have the structure monitored for air quality levels. These levels will need to meet safe operational limits per OSHA standards
2. The following meters will be used in all areas where crews will be operating
 - a. 4 Gas Meter
 - b. HCN Single Gas Meter
3. For respiratory protection to be removed, all criteria below must be met
 - a. CO – Must be less than 35 ppm (parts per million)
 - b. HCN– Must be 0 ppm (parts per million)
 - c. Oxygen – Greater than 19.5%, but less than 23%
4. All readings and actions must be documented

Equipment:

- Full protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus
- Biosystems (Sperian) 4 Gas Meter
- Biosystems (Sperian) HCN Meter

Considerations:

1. At no time does this SOG require an individual **to not** use breathing protection
2. At any time the incident commander or safety officer may still require personnel to wear breathing protection, despite the air quality levels obtained
3. If the oxygen levels are less than 20.9%, it is advisable to determine why the levels are low as something must be displacing the oxygen

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References:

1. Gorham Fire Department, SOP, (Post Structure Fire Air Monitoring) "Fire Ground Operations.
2. CDC (Hydrogen Cyanide Emergency Response Card (NIOSH) – ERC74-90-8
[Http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/cyanide/erc74-90-8pr.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/cyanide/erc74-90-8pr.asp)