



## **TIPS TO IMPLEMENTING THE CULTURE CHANGE**

1. Meet with your team to develop a decon plan that is customized to the needs of your department, remembering to plan for Inclement weather and other extreme cases
2. Add new decon protocols to your existing procedures
3. Make pre-arrangements for advanced gear cleanings
4. Post notices and safety posters throughout the station
5. Make decontamination a topic of discussion during your routine meetings
6. Use a system like GearTracker to easily manage all gear cleanings and repairs
7. Set disciplinary consequences for any crew member that does not comply to the new policies set in place
8. If funding is available, supply crew with a second set of gear like dual-certified TECGEN51 fatigues which can be used on all non-structural fire calls
9. Practice only wearing turnouts on structural calls
10. Increase the number of safety committee visits to your department
11. Encourage annual screenings and train the crew to recognize when occupational exposure has occurred
12. Develop a procedure for when occupational exposure has occurred and mitigate the risk of cross-contamination

## **CHANGING THE MINDSET**

1. Educate all crew members on fireground hazards, emphasizing the new research behind carcinogen and contaminant exposure
2. Include the crew on decisions that influence protocols
3. Reiterate the importance of personal health and family safety- in order to care for others you must first be healthy yourself
4. Encourage superiors to be role models, developing influencers from the top down
5. Recognize or reward employees who buy into the new culture
6. Change the appeal of wearing dirty gear by clearly illustrating it is not a badge of honor but a hazard to everyone's health

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