

Falmouth Fire-EMS Operating Guideline

Air Monitoring SOG

Objective:

To provide a guideline for monitoring air quality post structure fire suppression activities and while investigating carbon monoxide alarms to determine if respiratory protection is required.

Guidelines:**Post Fire Suppression:**

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. A 4-Gas Meter will be used in all areas where crews will be operating.
3. Full protective clothing (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus will be worn.
4. For respiratory protection to be removed, **all** criteria below must be met:
 - CO – Must be less than 25 ppm (parts per million) or below
 - HCN – Must be 0 (ppm)
 - Oxygen – Must be greater than 19.5%, but less than 23 %
4. All readings and actions must be documented.

Responding to a Report of a Carbon Monoxide Alarm Sounding:

1. When responding to a report of a Carbon Monoxide Alarm sounding, crews will need to meter the residence to check for carbon monoxide before entering without PPE and SCBA.
2. Crews will ask the occupants to evacuate the building while the building is being metered.
3. A 4-Gas Meter will be used in all areas where crews will be operating.
4. Full protective clothing (PPE) and self-contained breathing apparatus will be worn.
 - a. For respiratory protection to be removed CO must be less than 25 ppm (parts per million).

- b. Oxygen – Must be greater than 19.5%, but less than 23 %
- 5. All readings and actions must be documented.

Considerations:

- 1. At no time does this SOG require an individual not to 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.

These guidelines may be changed or altered by the Fire Chief at any time.