# **Transportation Emergency Preparedness Program** Law Enforcement Decontamination Job Aid

**Decontamination Stand-in-Place Dressdown** With the assistance of responders on the scene, the officer will step into the decontamination area where an oversized trash bag has been placed on the ground in a manner where the sides of the bag are rolled down.

All personal effects removed will be under the control of the evidence custodian.

### Decontamination dressdown procedure

The evidence custodian will observe the decontamination workers removing/bagging the officer's personal effects using the following steps:

- The officer will step into the oversize trash bag
- Place wallet, jewelry, cell phone, etc. in a separate sealed bag
- Any gloves including medical exam gloves
- Glasses, head gear, and jacket
- Ballistic vest (if worn outside shirt)
- Shirt
- Ballistic vest (if worn inside shirt)
- Untie or unzip shoes/boots to make it easier for removal (leave on at this time)
- Slide pants to ankles
- With pants at ankles, have the officer step out of their pants/shoes/boots while stepping out of the trash bag
- All personal effects will then be double bagged and controlled by the evidence custodian



**Modesty Clothing and Survey Station** After decontamination, modesty clothing (disposable coveralls) will be provided.

# Officer will proceed to the radiological survey station

At the survey station, the officer will remove their modesty clothing and the Radiation Authority will conduct a radiological survey to determine if they are contaminated.

If the officer is contaminated, the Radiation Authority will note contamination locations, levels and designate the necessary steps to ensure the officer is properly decontaminated and the spread of contamination is minimized.

Upon completion of the whole-body survey, the officer should be provided with clean modesty clothing.



### **Return to Duty**

The Radiation Authority and Incident Commander will decide if the officer can be released to continue normal work.

- The evidence custodian will maintain custody of the bagged items at a designated location near the decontamination area. The receiving officer will brief the Incident Commander on the number, type, and location of items (vehicle keys, weapons, and law enforcement vehicles) needing survey or possible decontamination.
- The Incident Commander will work with the evidence custodian and the Radiation Authority to determine the best location for the final contamination survey and decontamination of personal and law enforcement sensitive items.





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#### **Decontamination Set Up**

If the officer entered the incident scene (hot zone) to perform lifesaving actions or accidentally entered the hot zone and there is a potential that the officer is contaminated from the release of radioactive material, appropriate decontamination is necessary.

Responders will establish a decontamination corridor/process that uses a tarp, barricades, cones, or other identifying features to ensure that the decontamination area is obvious to responders.



## **Decontamination Considerations**

Officer's who entered the hot zone and are potentially contaminated should implement self-protection measures until they can be processed through the decontamination area:

- Do not eat, drink, smoke, or chew
- As possible, limit activities/movement to control the spread of contamination

If radiological survey equipment is on scene, a qualified person should conduct a full-body radiological survey of the officer to monitor for radioactive material contamination.

If no radiological material contamination is detected, the officer can return to normal duties once the officer, the vehicle, and other equipment has been cleared by the Radiation Authority.

If radiological <u>survey equipment is not available</u> <u>or contamination is detected</u>, proceed with the remaining steps of this procedure.

## **Options for securing officer's sensitive items**

*Option 1:* If officer's response vehicle is located inside the hot zone, the officer may elect to secure their law enforcement sensitive items

(specifically, firearms, Taser, ammunition, radios, body camera, department issued phone, and hard badges) in their vehicle. The officer should lock the response vehicle and prepare to exit the



scene through the decontamination area.

*Option 2:* Have the officer continue to the decontamination area wearing their sensitive items.

#### Law Enforcement Sensitive Items Custody

Maintaining a chain of custody of the weapons is required. Ensure that a law enforcement official who did not enter the hot zone and can act as the evidence custodian and is available to take possession of law enforcement sensitive items.

# Options for proper handling of law enforcement sensitive items at the decontamination area

*Option 1:* If the items were locked in the vehicle, the vehicle keys will be placed in a large clear plastic bag and sealed. The bag will then be placed in a second large clear plastic bag and sealed to ensure good contamination control practices (double bagged).

*Option 2:* According to agency protocol, the officer will clear their firearm, render it safe, and double bag it with other law enforcement sensitive items.

*Option 3:* The weapons belt, backup weapon/ holster, and law enforcement sensitive items will be double bagged.

