Purpose
The purpose of this project is to evaluate the proper protocol when wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) in order to increase the safety of firefighters and reduce toxin exposure.

Problem Statement
When PPE is not worn or properly decontaminated, firefighters are exposed to harmful toxins that could cause various health-related issues. This has led to an increased need for educating firefighters on the importance of properly decontaminating PPE post-fire suppression.

Selection Criteria
Fire Station #20 assigned by Deputy Fire Chief in Southeastern U.S.

Findings
- Supply of PPE items limited
- Minimal number of extractors per battalion
- Wash soap not specified
- No specific decontamination guidelines

Protocol Development
- Use 1 Hero Wipe to wipe the face and 1 Hero Wipe to wipe the neck prior to entering the firetruck to return to the station.
- Upon arrival back to the fire station, leave all bunker gear outside.
- Place hood in designated area to prepare for cleaning process.
- Wash hoods after every fire call with Chief’s Choice Turnout Gear Wash.
- Shower with Hygenall Field Wash Foaming Decon and Cleaning Soap after every fire call.
- Wearing latex gloves, scrub bunker gear in designated area with Chief’s Choice Turnout Gear Wash.
- Utilize Chief’s Choice Turnout Gear Wash when cleaning bunker gear in the extractor.

Conclusions
- Firefighters became more aware of their personal health
- Increased awareness on the amount of toxins present on PPE
- Firefighters agreed to trial guidelines and collect data

Evaluation Methods
- Electronic Survey
- Personal Feedback regarding the flow of the project
- Direct Observations

Implications for Practice
- Evaluation of PPE to keep firefighters safe
- Development of recommended guidelines approved
- Recommended guidelines implemented at Fire Station #20

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