

Diesel Exhaust

Exposure to Diesel Exhaust Causes Cancer

PPE STORAGE: Not all Firehouses are equipped with “fire gear rooms”. This fire station had all its gear hung in the apparatus bay.



Fortunately, there was a supply closet nearby.



The department was able to move the contents of the supply closet and transfer the gear into the closet. The gear storage room should be well ventilated. Gear should be DRY, HUNG, and kept away from UV light and DIESEL Exhaust.

If a firehouse does not have the capability to create a fire gear room, an option is to place covers over the gear lockers in the apparatus bay. This will help limit the amount of diesel exhaust on the gear and avoid UV light exposure.



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Exhaust Systems: Ensure your exhaust system is maintained and use the manufacturer recommendations to limit exposure to diesel exhaust.

Placement of PPE: Do not store fire gear near the vehicles' diesel exhaust discharge.

Apparatus Checks: Apparatus should be taken outside for their daily checks to limit diesel exhaust exposure.

Compartments over Exhaust: Each time the compartment located over the exhaust is opened while the apparatus is running, there will be exposure to diesel exhaust. For this reason, items that are frequently used (such as EMS equipment) should not be stored in this compartment.

Doors to Living Quarters: All doors should have adequate weatherproofing to keep any diesel exhaust from entering living quarters. This also includes pole holes. Doors to living quarters should NOT be propped open.

Drinking Fountains, ice and drink machines: Diesel exhaust will travel throughout the apparatus bay, contaminating drinking fountains, ice machines, and soda can lids. Ideally, these machines should be cleaned and relocated inside the stations living quarters. If this is not a possibility, then consider adding a non-potable sign. Firefighters should also clean the tops of their soda cans before consumption.

