



PPE Perspectives from the Fire Service

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COVID-19 Respiratory protection

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

March 2020

Recommends that **facemasks are an acceptable alternative** when the supply chain of respirators cannot meet the demand.

April 2020

Considering guidance advising healthcare workers, fire fighters and EMS personnel to don surgical masks in their workplaces at all times.

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International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)

March 2020

Our position is and will remain that the **N-95 or higher respirators** afford the best protection for our workforce when it comes to caring for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients.

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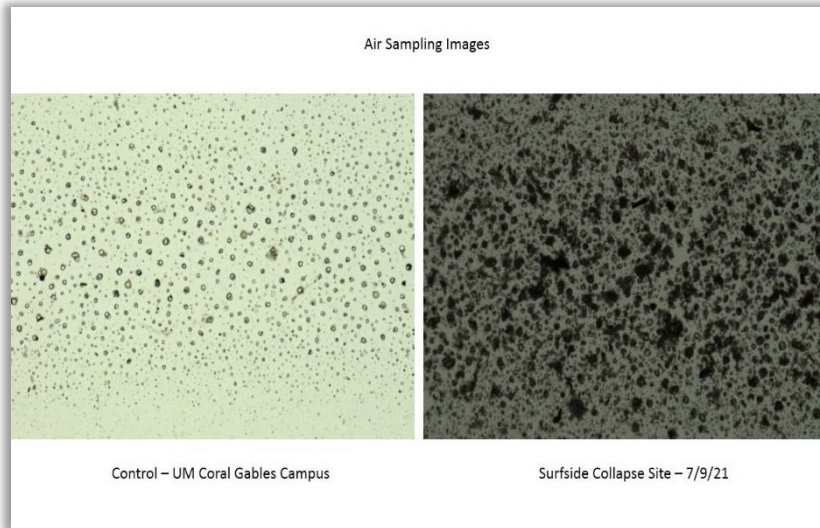
April 2020

Strongly Recommends all IAFF members wear a surgical masks in their workplaces at all times.

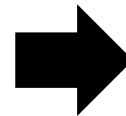
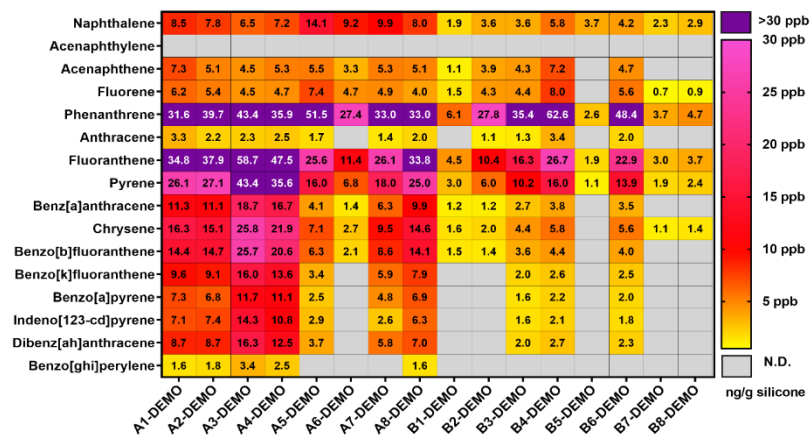


SURFSIDE COLLAPSE INCIDENT

ENVIRONMENTAL & EXPOSURE MONITORING



Environmental Polyaromatic Hydrocarbon Concentrations Silicone Samplers Deployed at Surfside Collapse



EFFECTIVELY MOTIVATING PPE USE

Protecting Fire Fighters
Surfside Incident :

P-100 Respirators

- Always wear a half-face P-100 respirator (or higher level of protection)
- Proper respiratory protection reduces exposure to particulates and toxic chemicals
- Safety officers and company officers must ensure use of proper respiratory protection
 - Non-compliance is dangerous and a violation of workplace safety regulations

Track Exposures

- Maintain a record of exposures that includes the date and time duration of each shift
- Utilize electronic personal exposure reporting (<https://per.miami.edu> or NFORS)
- Keep used P-100 canisters for post incident scientific analysis

Decontamination

- Utilize skin wipes during breaks
- Decontaminate equipment, PPE, & work uniforms
- Decontaminate oneself prior to leaving the incident
- Shower as soon as possible
- Do not eat prior to decontamination
- Do not transport contaminated clothing or equipment in personal vehicles
- Do not bring contaminated clothing or equipment home

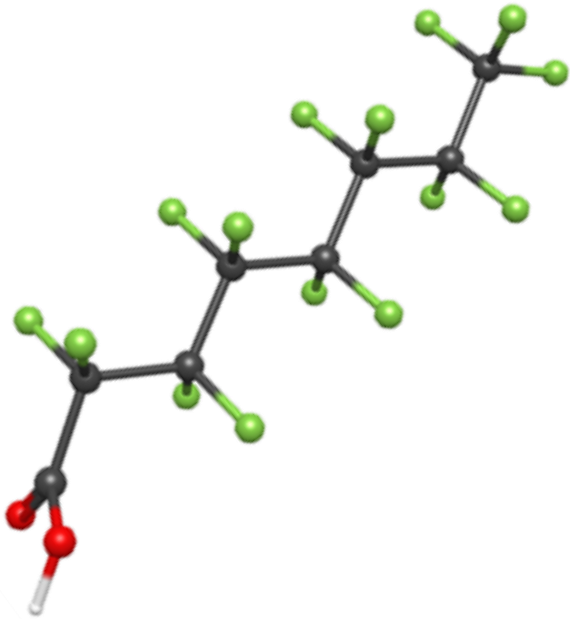
Success: sustained P100 use during operations



Challenges: interoperability & verbal communication



PFAS & FIRE FIGHTER PPE



PDB: 7AAI

The Precautionary Principle:

- Taking preventive action in the face of uncertainty
- Shifting the burden of proof to the proponents of an activity
- Exploring a wide range of alternatives to possibly harmful actions
- Increasing public participation in decision making