



Officers Section

POSITION STATEMENT

Exhaust

IAFC Volunteer & Combination Officers Section and the National Volunteer Fire Council's Joint Position Statement Regarding Engine Exhaust Emissions and Health

It is the position of the IAFC-VCOS and the NVFC to encourage emergency service organizations to minimize vehicular exhaust emissions in enclosed areas.

Background

An EPA report stated that exhaust from the engines in large vehicles "probably causes cancer in humans". The report stops short of calling diesel exhaust a "known" cause of cancer. Further reported, diesel exhaust is stated to be bad for human health. The study results are based on pre-1998 diesel engines which cause more pollution than engines now coming onto the market.

Suggested Actions

- **Generally, prevent engine exhaust from being available to individuals' breathing zones**
- **Eliminate HVAC air intakes from apparatus bays or other areas that allow engine exhaust to be drawn into the HVAC system**
- **Minimize operating engines in enclosed areas**
- **Provide adequate natural ventilation**
- **Assure re-hab areas are away from engine exhausts**
- **Consider mechanical air exchanges within buildings**

Consider exhaust extraction systems

Category: Health & Safety

Proposed by: VCOS Staff

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