

# MASS AND GROSS DECONTAMINATION TRAINING



**Background:** A recent Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Decontamination Program Report identified a *fire service training weakness* in Mass and Gross Decontamination. Victims have been forced to seek help at the closest hospital, which winds up being overwhelmed, or they endure the consequences of the chemical or agent attack. The most effective course is to decontaminate these victims as quickly as possible at the scene. If the fire department, with its existing PPE and equipment, is trained, the victims and the community are far better protected. With proper training, firefighter safety and the victims' recovery are greatly enhanced.

**Funding:** The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education (MBFTE) through HSEM has secured federal funding to provide a 2.5 hour basic mass and gross decontamination training program in each of the 790 fire departments throughout the state. The program provides classroom and hands-on training and the training is **FREE** to all fire departments. MBFTE is providing a Decontamination Kit and 2 protective coveralls are given to each participating department. Once again, this very important training is provided **FREE** to your fire department.

**Your Training Schedule:** Because much of the training is “hands-on” and employs outdoor decontamination procedures with your department’s equipment, it’s best to schedule the training during warm months. Since many departments offer drills for day responders and evening responders, and some departments have multiple shifts, classes will be arranged to meet those needs.

**Recommendation:** Several departments have already taken this training. It is advisable to get your scheduled date(s) booked soon. Fire Instruction and Rescue Education (F.I.R.E., Inc.) stands ready to schedule this very important Mass and Gross Decontamination training in your fire department using your equipment at **NO CHARGE** to your department.



**To schedule your department:** contact Dale Mashuga at [dmashuga@earthlink.net](mailto:dmashuga@earthlink.net)

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