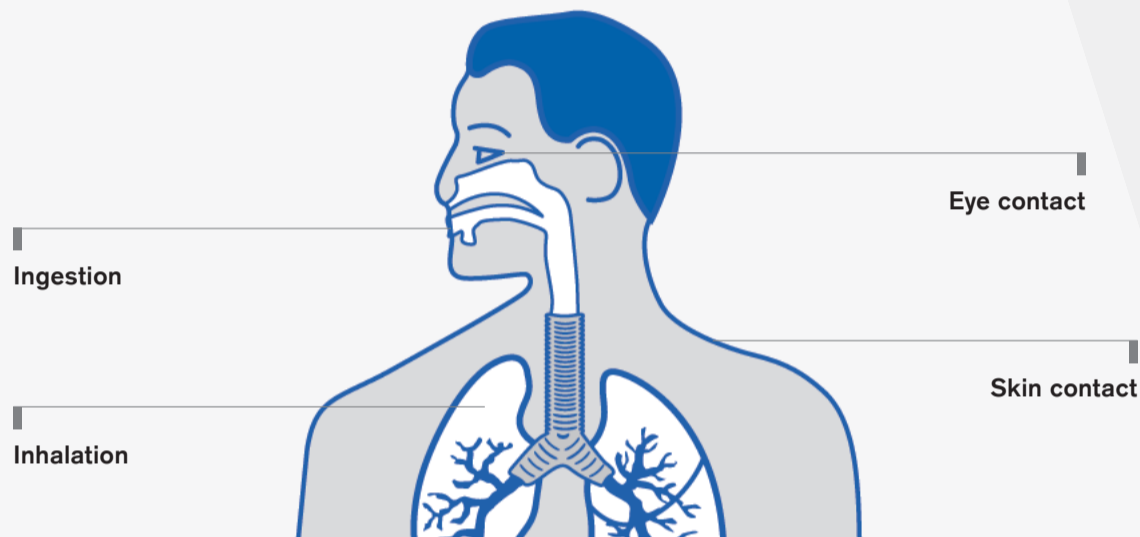


The danger after the danger

Safe handling of contaminated personal protective equipment (PPE)

After extinguishing a fire, there may still be a health risk for emergency personnel: even though there are no more flames to be seen, toxic or carcinogenic substances may still be present in the ambient air or on PPE.

How can toxic substances enter the body?



What determines the severity of a toxic effect?

- Hazardous substance concentration
- Exposure time
- Aggregate state of the hazardous substance
- Frequency of exposure
- Ambient temperature

Seven steps for the safe handling of contaminated PPE



STOP

As a rule, only remove breathing protection once you are in uncontaminated areas.

If necessary, remove contaminated protective equipment while still wearing breathing protection. Remove protective gloves last if possible.

Get a colleague (also wearing PPE) to help you disrobe where necessary.

After removing the protective clothing, close it again so no hazardous substances can contaminate the inside.

If something adverse does happen: wash skin immediately after contact with toxic substances and consult a doctor if necessary!

Transport contaminated breathing protection devices and protective clothing safely – e.g. in bags – to the breathing protection workshop or disposal point.

Breathing protection devices should only be cleaned by specialists in an area designated for this purpose.