

## **Practice Fire Shelter Deployments – Instructions for Disinfecting After Each Use**

Best practices for dealing with COVID-19 and sharing practice fire shelters will include disinfecting the shelter between each use. It is generally believed that the COVID-19 virus can survive on surfaces (like the practice fire shelter) for several days. The purpose of these disinfecting procedures is to **reduce the likelihood** of transmission of the virus between practice shelter deployments. The decision on how to best mitigate COVID-19 risks during practice shelter deployments lies with each individual agency.

Perform practice deployments outdoors or in a well-ventilated area. Even within a module-as-one, during the refresher training, firefighters need to wear masks/face coverings and keep socially distanced as much as possible. [Refolding the practice shelter](#) is a two-person job, so be cognizant of virus spread potential during that time.

### **Supplies needed -**

1. Commercial disinfecting wipes or disinfecting solution of diluted home bleach (4 teaspoons bleach for each quart of water or 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water, label containers)
2. Rags for wiping
3. Nitrile or latex gloves for the person cleaning
4. Consider eye protection

### **Cleaning procedure –**

Use the cleaning procedure after each practice deployment. The person cleaning needs to wear a mask/face covering in addition to wearing gloves.

1. Turn shelter inside out
2. Wipe shelter surface area with wipes or diluted solution including shake handles. Pay special attention to shake handles and to the previous user's head placement area.
3. Air dry completely

### **Precautions -**

1. To avoid the irritating nature of being in a confined space with heavy bleach odor, dry shelter completely.
2. Be cautious of leftover bleach solution adversely affecting clothing.
3. Since shake handles will likely be damp with the solution, firefighters should wear leather work gloves (as normally instructed).
4. Consider bringing extra clothing or wear coveralls that can be removed and laundered directly after the training session.
5. Consider having each firefighter clean the practice shelter directly following their practice deployment.

Additional CDC COVID information for wildland firefighters can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/wildland-firefighters-faq.html>

Additional Fire Shelter information, including the [2021 Training Update](#) can be found at:

<https://www.nwcf.gov/committees/fire-shelter-and-personal-protective-equipment-subcommittee>