



HEMPFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT – OPERATIONS

300.2 – INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

ISSUED:

January 25, 2021

REVISED:

PURPOSE:

To outline procedures to eliminate or minimize employees' and volunteers' exposure to potentially infectious infections blood, bodily fluids, and airborne pathogens.

SCOPE:

All fire personnel will use Universal Precautions when contact with blood or bodily fluids is investable or even possible. Respiratory protection will be utilized when airborne infections is inevitable or even possible.

ENFORCEMENT:

The Fire Chief and all Hempfield Fire Department Officers are ultimately responsible for ensuring the safety of firefighters in Hempfield Township. Any and all medical, religious and/or any other reasons for not being able to follow these procedures must be presented to the Fire Chief.

GENERAL:

Definitions –

Blood: Human blood, human blood components and products made from blood

Blood borne Pathogen: Pathogenic micro-organisms that are present in human blood and that can cause disease in humans, Including:

- A. Hepatitis B virus (HBV)
- B. Hepatitis C virus (HCV)
- C. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)

Contaminated – The presence or reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious material on an item or surface

Contaminated Equipment: Any equipment used in the workplace that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface

Contaminated sharps injury – Any sharps injury that occurs with a sharp used or encountered in a health care setting that is contaminated with human blood or body fluids

Exposure Report – A HFD – Blood & Body Fluid Exposure Report Form must be filled out and filed if a reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or other parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from performance of a member’s duties.

Incident Report- A HFD – Blood & Body Fluid Exposure Report Form must be filled out and filed if a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of a member’s duties.

Infectious Control Officer (ICO) – The Hempfield Fire Department will notify all departments of the Infectious Control Officer’s name and contact information. In order to qualify to for the position of Infectious Control Officer the individual must have the minimum qualifications:

1. Registered Nurse (R/N) or Higher Level (5 years’ experience)
2. Paramedic or Higher Level (5 years’ experience)

PROCEDURE:

1. Hand washing with soap and water is recommended before and after contact with any patient or potentially contaminated object
2. Universal precautions will be utilized in the care of all patients – Universal precautions include, but are not limited to, the following procedures:
 - a. Gloves must be worn during all patient contact – Gloves must be changed when they are torn and after contact with each patient
 - b. Hands and other skin surfaces must be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids
 - c. Gowns or plastic aprons are indicated if blood splattering is likely – The employees’ uniform/gear is considered to be personal protective equipment (PPE) in the pre-hospital environment
 - d. Mask and Eye Protection must be worn if splattering is likely to occur – This equipment is available on all ambulances – Eyeglasses are acceptable protection if side shields are attached
 - e. Used needles must not be bent, broken, or unnecessarily handled –They should be discarded intact immediately after use into a needle disposal box – recapping is strictly forbidden – If recapping is absolutely necessary, hemostats must be used
 - f. Stretchers must be wiped down after each patient use with an approved disinfectant (i.e., rubbing alcohol, disinfecting spray, or acceptable wipes)
 - g. EMS equipment must be cleaned as needed as part of the routine cleaning process
3. In the event that blood, oral secretions, vomit, decal tissue, cerebral fluid/matter, and/or wound drainage becomes uncontained the following steps must be followed:
 - a. Spills must be cleaned as soon as possible with Clorox (beach) water solutions (four parts water to one part Clorox/bleach) to eliminate a chance of spreading contamination to the rest of the ambulance
 - b. The solution must be applied and allowed to contact the spill for several minutes – only freshly made solution should be used – discard solution after twenty-four hours
 - c. Apply disposable gloves and clean the treated spill
4. The following steps must be followed to contain and dispose of Bio hazardous waste:

1. All waste classified as infectious waste will be placed in a red plastic bag and closed with tape or a 'twist-tie' wire enclosure
2. The closed bag will be placed in appropriately marked containers in the soiled utility room or an area specifically designated for infectious waste appropriate to the hospital or receiving facility
3. 'Infectious waste' bags will not be placed in any trash chute or regular garbage cans
 - a. Any sharps that have been contaminated by blood or potentially infectious material must be disposed of in an approved container
 - b. Full boxes must be disposed of at the receiving facility
4. Contaminated linen must be disposed of at the receiving facility
5. If gear and/or clothing are contaminated, they must be placed in a bio-hazard bag, sealed, and the OIC notified to arrange for proper decontamination
6. The following steps must be taken when cleaning non-disposable equipment (i.e., blades, Magill forceps, and lighted stylettes):
 - a. Gloves must be worn by personnel while cleaning equipment
 - i. Clean the equipment of gross contamination with soap/water or alcohol
 - ii. Soak in high-level disinfectant (Cidex, Matricide, or Sporidex) for ten (10) minutes
 - iii. Rinse with hot water
 - iv. Store dry
 - b. Use of surgical masks is indicated for patients if they are suspected of having a disease transmitted via airborne vectors (e.g., TB)
7. If such patients are intubated, then surgical masks must be worn by all Crew member on call, and bio-filter placed on the ETT
8. Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited during an EMS incident where patient contact is possible
9. If potentially infectious materials such as blood or other human fluids penetrate garment(s), the garment(s) shall be removed immediately or as soon as feasible
 1. The supervisor must be contacted immediately and notified that the unit is out of service for decontamination of personnel, equipment, or clothing
 2. NOTE: Uniforms soiled with blood or bodily fluids may NOT be taken home for laundering – They are to be disposed of via bio-hazard bag
10. DO NOT mix chlorine bleach with other products, especially those containing ammonia, as chlorine gas could be produced

Infectious Control Officer-

1. Serve as the Department's "Designated Officer" as required by the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Act of 1990 (PL 101-381)
2. Evaluate possible member exposures to communicable diseases and coordinate communications between the Department, area hospitals, and the PA Department of Health
3. Collect quality assurance/improvement data on the Department Infection Control Program
4. Notify the Department Safety Officer if quality assurance/improvement data indicate a safety hazard requiring immediate attention

5. Conduct spot inspections of on-scene and station operations to ensure compliance with Department Infection Control Program
6. Coordinate an immunization program for the Department and maintain immunization records at headquarters
7. Maintain a confidential database of exposures and treatment given
8. Keep abreast of new developments in the field of infection control and make appropriate recommendations to the Safety Committee
9. In conjunction with the Safety Committee, develop and deliver a comprehensive infection control educational program

Reporting –

1. Exposure Report – the Officer in Charge will fill out the HFD – Blood & Body Fluid Exposure Report Form. The person(s) involved along with the Fire Chief will also sign this report. The Infectious Control Officer must be contacted so that they can do their report.
2. Incident Report – The Officer in Charge will fill out the HFD – Blood & Body Fluid Exposure Report Form and attach it to the incident report. The person(s) involved along with the Fire Chief will also sign this report. The Infectious Control Officer must be contacted so that they can do their report.
3. Incident Commander, Fire Chief, and Infectious Control Officer may be responsible for filling out any and all paperwork needed by the Hempfield Fire Department and/or the PA Department of Health
4. All exposures and/or incidents should be documented on the Fire Incident Report

Record Keeping-

1. HIPAA will be followed when dealing with medical records
2. All exposure and incident reports will be kept and locked up in the member's personal file
3. All Infectious Control Officer records will be kept locked up
4. These records can only be obtained by the member, Fire Chief, Infectious Control Officer, and/or approved medical personnel.