

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 204 – EMS Operations

204.13.4 – Exposure Reporting Policy

This policy outlines reporting procedures for SFD Personnel who are potentially exposed to infectious agents. The SFD recognizes the potential for exposure of its members to communicable diseases in the performance of their duties. In the emergency care setting, the infectious disease status of patients is frequently unknown. Airborne, blood, and body fluid precautions should be taken when indicated on EMS calls.

Reporting a Potential Exposure

All potential exposures shall be reported immediately to the on-duty Shift Commander, who will then contact the designated Infection Control Officer. If the designated ICO cannot be contacted, proceed to contact an alternate ICO in the following order:

- BC Training Officer
- Division Chief of Operations
- Shift Commander
- Assistant Fire Chief
- Fire Chief

Following any exposure, all SFD Personnel involved will initiate normal decontamination procedures.

Determining if an Exposure has Occurred

The ICO will review the circumstances of all exposure incidents to verify if an actual exposure has occurred. The ICO will:

- Develop a list of the names of personnel exposed.
- Identify the nature of the exposure.
- Obtain incident numbers, date, time, patient name and incident location.
- Obtain the name of known or suspected infectious disease.
- Obtain patient medical history and disposition from receiving hospital, Coroner, home, etc.

In addition the ICO will determine the following:

- Engineering controls in use at the time of exposure.
- Work practices followed.
- A description of the device being used (including type and brand).
- Protective equipment or clothing that was used at time of the exposure.
- Location of the incident (field, ambulance, ER, etc.).
- Procedure being performed when the exposure occurred.
- Member's training history.

ICO Response to a Confirmed Exposure

When the ICO verifies that an exposure has occurred, the receiving hospital shall be contacted immediately requesting a blood draw on the source patient.

- Base line blood testing for exposed SFD Personnel and physician consultation.
- Identify and document the source patient (unless it can be established that identification is infeasible or prohibited by state or local law)
- Obtain consent and make arrangements to have the source patient tested as soon as possible to determine HIV, HCV, and HBV infectivity; document that the source patient test results are conveyed to the designated SFD Infection Control Physician.
- Contact receiving facility ICO to request patient follow-up information.
- Follow-up session with exposed personnel.

Exposure Documentation

The following SFD and City Of Springdale Forms must be completed immediately after an exposure occurs:

- Arkansas Workers Compensation AR-N Form.
- City of Springdale Incident Form
- SFD Exposure Form