

Springdale Fire Department

Policy & Procedures Manual

Volume 2 – Operations

Section 204 – EMS Operations

204.13 – Exposure Control Program

The purpose of this policy is to maintain an Exposure Control Program designed to adequately protect all SFD Personnel from the risk of communicable diseases, not only while working emergency incidents, but also in the every day work environment while on duty.

The Springdale Fire Department recognizes the potential for exposure of its personnel to communicable diseases while in the performance of their duties. When SFD Personnel are operating at an emergency incident, the infectious disease status of patients is frequently unknown. Precautionary measures must be taken when dealing with patient blood or other body fluids.

The objective of the SFD Exposure Control Program is to eliminate, or minimize exposure to bloodborne pathogens in accordance with OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.1030, “Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens.”

The SFD Exposure Control Program is designed to assist our personnel in ensuring compliance with the standard. In compliance with 29 CFR 1910.1030 and Ryan White Law, the SFD Exposure Control Program includes the following subsections:

- Infection Control Officer Statement of Authority (204.13.1)
- Bloodborne-Airborne Pathogen PPE (204.13.2)
- Exposure Prevention (204.13.3)
- Exposure Reporting Policy (204.13.4)
- Disinfection and Decontamination (204.13.5)
- Exposure Control Program Training (204.13.6)

Forms identified within the Exposure Control Program are located within the SFD Forms section in the Exposure Control Plan sub-folder.

Record Keeping

Medical records are maintained for SFD Personnel with occupational exposure in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1020, “Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records.” The Infection Control Officer is responsible for maintenance of the required medical records. These confidential records are kept at the SFD Administration or the City Clerks office for at least the duration of employment plus 30 years.

Medical records are provided upon request of the department member or to anyone having written consent of the department member within 5 working days. Such requests should be sent to the Fire Chief.

Training records are created for all SFD Personnel upon completion of training. These documents may be in either standard paper or electronic storage formats. Training records are kept at the SFD Administration indefinitely.

Definitions

Blood means human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Decontamination means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy BBP on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use or disposal.

Engineering Controls means controls that isolate or remove the BBP hazard from the workplace.

Exposure means reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Exposure Incident means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious material that result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Hepatitis B Vaccination (HBV) is the vaccination to help prevent the hepatitis B virus from infecting an exposed person.

Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM) means (1) any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood or all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; (2) any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); (3) HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV or HBV containing culture medium or other solutions; and (4) blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

Parenteral means piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions.

Personal Protective Equipment is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts) not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.

Sharps means any object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, razors, or broken glass.

Sharps containers are rigid plastic container with fitted lid designed for safe handling and storage of sharps waste. A sharps container must be leak proof, puncture-resistant, and break-resistant.

Source Patient means any individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee. Examples include, but are not limited to, hospital and clinic patients; clients in institutions for the developmentally disabled; trauma victims; clients of drug and alcohol treatment facilities; residents of hospices and nursing homes; human remains; and individuals who donate or sell blood or blood components.

Universal precautions are infection control guidelines designed to protect workers from exposure to diseases spread by blood and certain body fluids.

Work Practice Controls means controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed.