



Policy 402
Occupational Health and Safety
Blood Borne Pathogens
02/11/04

1. The purpose of this policy is to provide all members of Hiawatha Fire & Rescue with the information necessary to prevent the spread of infectious disease.
2. Exposure Control Plan
 1. Exposure Determination
 2. Personnel determined to be at risk of exposure to infectious diseases transmitted through blood and other body fluids are in the following roles:
 1. EMT
 2. Firefighters
 3. Firefighter / EMT
 3. An increased risk of transmission of infectious diseases exists when personnel have contact with the following persons (but not limited to):
 1. Bleeding patients
 2. Alcohol abusers
 3. Illegal drug users
 4. Sexually promiscuous persons
 5. Hemophiliacs
 6. Persons who state they have Hepatitis B, HIV, or AIDS
 4. Members may encounter situations where there is an increased risk of transmission on infectious disease. These situations may include but, not limited to:
 1. Any time body fluids are present.
 2. Buildings with unsanitary conditions
 3. Death scenes
 4. Traumatic injury scenes
 5. Extrication at auto accidents
 6. Members must utilize appropriate judgement for the level of risk for situations not named above
 5. Complying with the Blood Borne Pathogens Protection Plan
 1. Universal Precautions- will be observed when members are exposed to, or if there is a likelihood that the members may be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Since any body fluid may transmit diseases if it contains blood, members are directed to treat all blood and body fluids as infectious substances.
 2. Hand Washing- hand and other skin surfaces must be washed thoroughly as soon as possible if contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials to which universal precautions apply.
 1. Hands should always be washed after gloves are removed even if the gloves appear intact. Hand washing should be completed using the sink in the infectious control room. The infectious control room is located immediately off of the apparatus bay.
 2. Hand washing should be done with warm water and soap. Waterless antiseptic hand cleaner should be provided to members when hand washing facilities are not immediately available. Various antiseptic hand cleaners are stored in the personnel compartment of R-281.
3. Protective Clothing- refer to policies 407, 407A, and 407B.
4. Needles and other sharp objects- Members shall take precautions to prevent injuries caused by needles, knives, broken glass, razor blades, and other sharp objects that can puncture or lacerate the skin.
5. Laundering of Clothing and Cleaning of Equipment-
 1. Clothing worn by members is not considered protective clothing. Contaminated clothing should be handled by members wearing gloves, bagged in a leakproof plastic bag that is



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red in color or marked as "Biohazard". Soiled clothing may be laundered according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Boots and leather items may be scrubbed and washed with soap and hot water to remove contaminants.
3. Contaminated clothing shall be removed and cleaned as soon as possible.
4. Members shall avoid handling personal items (combs, glasses, pens, etc) while wearing contaminated gloves. Contaminated gloves should be removed as soon as possible. Preferably, members will discard of contaminated gloves in the responding ambulance.
5. Members shall use pocket masks and other resuscitation equipment rather than performing mouth to mouth resuscitation on a non-breathing patient.
6. Medical equipment must be thoroughly cleaned with an approved disinfectant after each use.

6. Housekeeping-

1. All equipment and work areas shall be cleaned and decontaminated after contact with blood or potentially infectious materials.
2. Wastebaskets that are visibly contaminated shall be cleaned immediately.
3. Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling of contact lenses are prohibited in the infectious control room or other areas where there is a likelihood that an exposure may occur.

7. Hepatitis B

1. Hepatitis B vaccinations are available to all members. Members may decline the vaccination after signing a waiver. Hepatitis B vaccinations are provided by the Linn County Health Department. The vaccinations shall be arranged through the Safety Officer.

II. Exposures –

1. A significant exposure occurs when blood or other potentially infectious materials come into contact with the eyes, nose, mouth, into an open wound or puncture injury.
2. If a member of Hiawatha Fire & Rescue experiences a significant exposure or is in a situation where a significant exposure may have occurred the member will:
 - A. Report the incident to a Chief Officer as soon as possible.
 - B. Complete a Exposure Report.
 - C. The member will report to the same hospital which the patient is taken to with a copy of the Exposure Report and advise the hospital of the exposure or potential exposure. All medical treatment and follow-up shall remain confidential.
 - D. The hospital will test the source individual's blood as soon as feasible consent is obtained to determine the presence of Bloodborne pathogens (Hepatitis B, HIV). If the source individual declines to give consent, the department shall determine that legally required consent can not be obtained.
 - E. Results of the source individuals testing shall be made available to the exposed member.