

Hiawatha Fire & Rescue

Policy 704
Emergency Medical Services
Emergency Medical Services Protective Clothing
5/25/2001

i. Scope

This standard shall apply to any member who comes in contact with a patient. It was promulgated to prevent the contraction of communicable diseases by prescribing appropriate preventative measures

I. General

- A. Members who provide patient care or who are otherwise likely to be exposed to blood or other body fluids shall be provided protective emergency medical garments, face protection, and gloves that meet applicable requirements of NFPA 1999, *Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations*.
- B. Members shall wear gloves when in contact with a patient or in the presence of bodily fluids. Patient care shall not be initiated until the gloves are donned.
- C. Each member shall don a protective emergency medical garment and face protection device prior to administering any patient care whenever large discharges of bodily fluids are likely.
- D. Gloves shall be disposed of after being used and shall not be reused. For multiple-causality incidents, use a new set of gloves for each patient whenever possible.
- E. Contaminated gloves and face protection shall be placed in a red biohazard bag for proper disposal after use. The contaminated biohazard bags shall be disposed of at a hospital or other designated waste handler. Under no circumstances shall contaminated items be left at the scene of an incident or disposed of in the station trash.
- F. Contaminated uniforms, protective clothing, nondisposable equipment and vehicles shall be cleaned and decontaminated as soon as practical. Decontamination shall always take place prior to being returned to service.
- G. SOP 407 Personal Protective Equipment, shall also be strictly adhered to when conditions warrant.

II. Responsibilities

- A. The program manager for EMS shall issue a sufficient quantity of protective face protective and gloves to each apparatus to ensure that such devices will be available for each incident to which companies respond.
- B. The officer or designee shall inspect each apparatus after each emergency medical incident to ensure that a sufficient quantity of protective devices is available for use by each member of the company or crew.
- C. Each member shall be responsible shall be responsible for wearing the appropriate level of protection at an emergency medical incident.
- D. Officers and Senior Firefighters shall be responsible for ensuring that all persons under their command wear appropriate level of protection at an emergency medical incident and shall immediately correct any violation that is observed.
- E. Students and observers involved in the delivery of patient care shall strictly adhere to the provisions of this standard.