



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Exposure Protocol**
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PURPOSE

Emergency services carries with it inherent risk of exposure to infectious bodily fluids. This document outlines proper procedures for limiting and mitigating exposure to bodily fluids. It also outlines the department's policy on handling exposures once they occur.

SECTION I –Limiting Exposure to Bodily Fluids during Emergency Response

Body Substance Isolation is a consistent approach to managing body substances from all patients and it is essential to prevent transmission of infectious agents. This approach will protect all emergency responders from exposure to unrecognized as well as recognized infection.

- Disposable (single use) non-latex gloves are worn for anticipated contact with moist body substances, and when performing vascular access procedures. Use of these gloves should be considered for all patient contacts, even when contact with body substances is not anticipated.
- Protective eyewear is worn in situations where splatters with blood or other body substances are anticipated. Eye protection is encouraged during all patient contacts.
- Masks are worn for anticipated contact with respiratory droplet secretions (e.g. a coughing patient, when suctioning a patient, needle chest decompression, if splatter into the mouth and nose is likely to occur when performing procedures or cleaning equipment).
- A patient with a disease spread by the airborne route should be masked to protect emergency personnel unless patient care necessitates the absence of a patient mask.
- Moisture repellent gowns should be worn when soilage of clothing by body substances is anticipated.

Hand Washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection. Personnel should always wash their hands, even when gloves are used, after taking care of patients. Alcohol based hand sanitizers may be used until hand washing can occur

SECTION II –Procedure Following Exposure to Bodily Fluids

1. Notify the EMS Crew Leader or Duty Officer immediately following an exposure to bodily fluids.
2. Personnel should report as soon as possible to St. John's Medical Center's Emergency Department (ED) to determine if treatment/monitoring is needed. The appropriate goal for institution of therapy is within two hours after potential HIV exposure.
3. When treatment is needed register as an outpatient with the ED admitting clerk and be sure to state this is a Workman's Compensation injury. The member must complete Worker's Compensation Report of Occupational Injury forms.
4. Exposed personnel must also complete a Jackson Hole Fire/EMS department Incident Report and return it to the Health and Safety Coordinator preferably immediately but **within 72 hours of incident**.
5. ED staff shall direct further treatment/monitoring.