

<b>Standard Operating Procedure</b>  <b>INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM - STATION ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT</b> <b>EMS</b> <b>400.24D</b> <b>Rev. 09/28/2015</b>
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## **PURPOSE**

The Peoria Fire-Medical Department recognizes that the prevention of the spread of potentially infectious diseases does not begin and end at the scene of an emergency but rather at the Fire Station. The purpose of this standard is to identify activities that could potentially indirectly spread blood borne and airborne pathogens throughout the fire station, to other patients, the public and the families of the members of the Peoria Fire-Medical Department.

## **POLICY**

This standard applies to all Peoria Fire-Medical Department facilities and all Peoria Fire-Medical Department members.

### **Storage Areas**

Peoria Fire-Medical Stations will designate separate locked areas for:

- Equipment decontamination and disinfection.
- Storage of clean patient care equipment, and infection control personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Storage of biohazard waste.
- Emergency medical supplies and equipment other than those stored on vehicles shall be stored in a dedicated, enclosed area to protect from damage and contamination.
- Potentially contaminated PPE shall be stored in a dedicated, well-ventilated room and shall not be stored in the kitchen, living, sleeping, recreation, or personal hygiene areas, nor shall they be stored in personal lockers.

### **Cleaning Areas**

A designated cleaning area shall be provided in each fire station for the cleaning of personal protective equipment, portable equipment, and other clothing.

This cleaning area shall have:

- Proper ventilation
- Proper lighting
- Drainage connected to the sanitary sewer or septic system.

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The designated cleaning area shall be physically separate from areas used for food preparation, cleaning of food, and cooking utensils, personal hygiene, sleeping areas, living areas and the disinfecting area.

### **Decontamination Areas**

Fire Stations without decontamination facilities will use the facilities at fire stations so equipped or at the receiving hospitals until such time that those stations are properly equipped.

All future Peoria Fire-Medical Stations that are constructed will be designed to comply with NFPA Standards 1500 & 1581 as well as OSHA 29CFR1910.1030.

Under no circumstances will kitchens, bathrooms, or living areas be used for decontamination or storage of patient care equipment or infectious waste.

Decontamination areas will be marked with biohazard signs and will be equipped with:

- Two sinks, constructed of nonporous materials, equipped with spray attachments and foot controls. These sinks will drain directly to a sanitary sewer or septic system.
- Proper lighting.
- Adequate ventilation to the outside environment.
- Adequate counter areas constructed of nonporous materials.
- Adequate rack space to allow air-drying of equipment. Drainage from shelving shall run into a sink or drainage pan that empties directly into a sanitary sewer or septic system.
- Floor drains connected to the sanitary sewer or septic system.
- Appropriate containers for disposal of biohazard waste.
- Facilities for the safe storage, use, and disposal of cleaning and disinfecting solutions.
- Appropriate PPE for the use of disinfecting solutions.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for cleansing and disinfecting solutions. All personnel using these solutions will be familiar with the MSDS and will use the recommended PPE.

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- Decontamination Areas will be cleaned and disinfected as needed or weekly whichever comes first.

### **Disposal Areas**

Infectious waste storage areas will be marked with biohazard signs and will be maintained in accordance with all EPA and local regulations.

Disposal area shall be physically separate from the designated cleaning and disinfecting areas.

Contaminated sharps will be stored in closed puncture-resistant containers (sharps boxes) with appropriate biohazard markings and color-coding.

Other contaminated materials will be stored in leak-proof bags with appropriate biohazard markings and color-coding.

If outside contamination of a disposal bag is a possibility, a second bag with identical markings will be placed over the first.

Reusable bins and containers used to store biohazard waste will be inspected, cleaned, and disinfected weekly, and immediately if outside contamination is present.

All disposal of biohazard waste will be in accordance with EPA and local regulations and will be performed by an approved licensed contractor designated by the department.

### **Laundry Area**

All stations will maintain a clean laundry area with a washer, dryer and a wash sink.

All work uniforms will be washed in-station. **Under no circumstances will work uniforms be washed at home by members.** This will help protect members' families from both infectious and chemical contamination.

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All members will maintain extra clean work uniforms in the station, so that potentially contaminated uniforms can be exchanged upon return to quarters.

All linen used for patient transport is considered potentially contaminated. Contaminated linen will not be washed in station laundry facilities. Disposable gloves shall be worn when handling potentially contaminated linen.

**Kitchen Areas**

All kitchens will be equipped with double sinks constructed of nonporous materials.

Food preparation areas, counter tops, and cutting boards will be constructed of nonporous materials.

Under no circumstances will any kitchen facility be used for the purpose of cleaning, sterilizing, disinfecting, storing, or disposal of any infectious material or waste.

Food or drink shall not be kept in the refrigerator, freezers, on shelves, cabinets or on counter tops or bench tops where blood or OPIM may be present.

Thermometers will be kept in all refrigerators and freezers. Refrigerators will maintain a temperature of 36 degrees F or below, and freezers will maintain a temperature of zero degrees F or below. Temperatures will be checked weekly by a member designated by the Captain in each station.

Food will be properly prepared and cooked. Hands will be washed before and after preparing food. If possible food will be returned to the refrigerator before leaving the station if a meal is interrupted by an alarm.

All stations will be equipped with dishwashers capable of supplying 140 degrees F water for washing.

**Bathrooms**

Bathrooms will have push-to-open doors without handles.

Disposable hand-drying materials will be used. Cloth towels will not be used.

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A clearly visible sign reminding members to wash their hands shall be posted prominently in each bathroom.

Bathrooms will be cleaned daily and disinfected weekly or more often as needed.

### **Sleeping Areas**

Adequate ventilation and HVAC system will be installed and maintained in a safe condition.

A minimum of sixty square feet of floor space per bed will be provided.

Separate lockers will be provided for bedding materials and clothing.

### **Station Cleaning**

The employer must determine and implement an appropriate written schedule of and decontamination based upon the location within the facility (e.g., surgical operatory versus patient room), type of surface to be cleaned (e.g., hard-surfaced flooring versus carpeting), type of soil present (e.g., gross versus minor splattering), and tasks and procedures being performed (e.g., laboratory analyses versus routine patient care).

The particular disinfectant used, as well as the frequency with which it is used, will depend upon the circumstances in which the housekeeping task occurs.

All equipment and work surfaces that have become overtly contaminated with blood or OPIM shall be cleaned and disinfected as soon as feasible, as well as at the end of the work shift if the surfaces have become contaminated since the last cleaning.

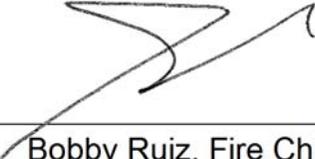
Any protective coverings, such as plastic wrap, aluminum foil, or imperviously-backed absorbent paper used to cover equipment and/or surfaces shall be removed and replaced when overtly contaminated or at the end of the shift.

All pail, cans, bins or similar receptacles intended for reuse shall be inspected, cleaned, and decontaminated immediately or as soon as feasible when visibly contaminated.

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Bags to be used for regulated waste are red or have the biohazard symbol on them; or a placard, sign or tag shall be affixed to the bag pursuant to 1910.1030(g)(1)(I)(e).

Broken glass shall not be picked up by hand but shall be swept up or picked up with tongs.

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_ 09/28/2015  
Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief Date