

Standard Operating Procedure INFECTION CONTROL PROGRAM - EMS PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT	PEORIA FIRE-MEDICAL DEPARTMENT EMS 400.24G Rev. 09/28/2015 Page 1 of 3
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PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to outline the specifications, purchase, storage, issue, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

POLICY

This standard applies to all members of the Peoria Fire Department.

Specification, purchase, storage and issue of personal protective equipment.

Standards for PPE will be developed by the Infection Control Officer and the Labor Management Safety Committee and will be updated or modified as needed.

The Peoria Fire department is responsible for the supply, repair, replacement, and safe disposal of infection control PPE appropriate to the reasonably anticipated blood or OPIM exposure.

The Infection Control Officer and the Labor Management EMS Committee will determine proper stock supply levels of infection Control PPE both for stations and for response vehicles.

The Captain at each station will ensure that station stock of infection control PPE is adequate and that supplies nearing expiration dates are used first.

The amount, type, and location of infection control PPE will be standardized on all response vehicles.

Available infection control PPE (in addition to PPE for structural firefighting) will include disposable gloves; N95 masks; eye protection; fluid-impervious gowns; disposable sleeves; disposable shoe covers; sharps containers; and leak proof disposal bags.

Disposable gloves will be constructed of nitrile.

Sharps containers will be closable, puncture resistant, and leak proof. Sharps containers will be color-coded red, labeled as a biohazard, and immediately accessible (within reach).

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All members will be issued a pocket mask with a one-way valve. Replacement pocket masks will be carried on every response vehicle and stocked in each station.

Selection and use of personal protective equipment

Emergency response often is unpredictable and uncontrollable. While blood is the single most important source of HIV and HBV infection in the workplace, in the field it is safest to assume that all body fluids are infectious. In addition careful consideration must be given to potential airborne diseases. For this reason, PPE will be chosen to provide barrier protection against all body fluids and airborne diseases.

In general, members should select infection control PPE appropriate to the potential for spill, splash, or exposure to other body fluids and airborne diseases. No standard operating procedure or PPE ensemble can cover all situations. Common sense must be used. When in doubt, select maximal rather than minimal PPE.

Disposable nitrile gloves will be worn during any patient contact when potential exists for contact with blood, body fluids, nonintact skin, or other infectious material. All members will carry extra pairs of disposable gloves in turnout coats and/or EMS fanny packs.

Gloves will be replaced as soon as possible when soiled, torn, or punctured. Members shall wash their hands after glove removal with an antibacterial solution and/or wipe, and as soon as practical with soap and water.

Disposable nitrile gloves will not be reused or washed and disinfected for reuse.

Where possible, gloves should be changed between patients in multiple causality situations.

Structural firefighting gloves will be worn in situations where sharp or rough edges are likely to be encountered.

Disposable heavy-duty utility gloves may be worn for the handling, cleaning, decontamination, or disinfection of potentially contaminated patient care equipment.

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Facial protection will be used in any situation where splash contact with the face is possible. Facial protection may be afforded by using **both** a face mask and eye protection, or by using a full-face shield. When treating a patient with a known or suspected airborne transmissible disease, N95 masks will be used.

- Face shields on structural helmets will not be used for infection control purposes.

Fluid-resistant gowns are designed to protect clothing from splashes. Structural firefighting gear also protects clothing from splashes and is preferable in fire, rescue, or vehicle extrication activities. Gowns may interfere with, or present a hazard to, the member in these circumstances. The decision to use barrier protection to protect clothing and the type of barrier protection used will be left to the member. Structural firefighting gear will always be worn for fire suppression and extrication activities.

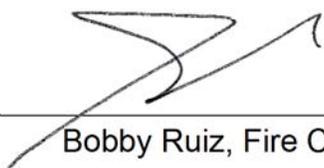
Under certain circumstances, head covers and/or shoe covers will be required to protect these areas from potential contamination. Structural firefighting gear (impervious boots, helmets) also may be used for barrier protection.

Summary:

- If it is wet, it's infectious – use gloves
- If it could splash onto your face, use eye protection and face N95 mask.
- If it's airborne, use N95 Mask.
- If it could splash on your clothes, use a gown or structural firefighting gear.
- If it could splash on your head or feet, use appropriate barrier protection.
- When in doubt use maximal PPE rather than minimal PPE.

NOTE: An employee's decision not to use PPE is to be made on a case-by-case and must have been prompted by legitimate and truly extenuating circumstances. This does not relieve the employer to ensure that PPE is readily accessible at all times. The employer must investigate and document why PPE was not used in each case and evaluate circumstances surrounding the incident to reduce the likelihood of a future (unprotected) incident.

Approved:



 Bobby Ruiz, Fire Chief

09/28/2015

_____ Date