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PURPOSE

To provide a comprehensive infection control system that maximizes protection against communicable diseases for all members of to the Peoria Fire Department, and for the public that they serve. Identify methods and practices to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material and to provide

POLICY

It is the policy of the Peoria Fire Department that all members are provided with personal protective equipment and perform in accordance with the following NFPA and OSHA standards:

- NFPA 1581 Fire Department Infection Control Program
- NFPA 1500 Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program
- OSHA 1910.1030 Bloodborne Pathogens

All members shall be provided with personal protective equipment, cleaning and disinfecting supplies, and training and education in preventative health care practices and methods to understand, reduce, or eliminate the risk of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material.

To prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, general universal precautions shall be used by all members who do or may come in contact to infectious material either through direct patient contact or handling of equipment. All body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious material.

Each member of the fire department is responsible for their safety as well as the safety of their co-workers. Every member shall strictly adhere to all procedures and guidelines contained within this Standard Operating Procedure. Each Company Officer is responsible to insure that his/her crew has all required personal protective equipment to adequately safeguard themselves from contact with potentially infectious material.

The department shall designate an Infection Control Officer (ICO) to manage exposures to the members of the department. The ICO shall be responsible for reviewing this procedure at least annually.

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Universal Precautions

Universal precautions involve the use of protective barriers such as gloves, gowns, aprons, masks, or protective eyewear to reduce the risk of exposure to skin or mucous membranes to potentially infective fluids and airborne diseases. In addition universal precautions involves steps taken by department members to prevent injuries caused by needles, scalpels, and other sharps.

All members shall routinely use appropriate universal precautions to prevent skin, mucous membrane or airborne exposure during any time where potential contact with a patient(s) blood, body fluid or airborne secretions/diseases is possible or while performing any invasive procedures.

The only exception to the use of PPE is under rare and extraordinary circumstances where in the member's professional judgment that in the specific instance its use would have prevented the delivery of health care or public safety services or would have posed an increased hazard to the safety of the member or members.

PPE shall be worn to protect the hands for the following circumstances:

- For touching the blood and body fluids requiring universal precautions, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin of all patients,
- For handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids to which universal precautions apply.
- Gloves shall be worn by any member that has cuts, scratches, or other breaks in the skin, when in contact with a patient(s), or when the member judges that hand contamination may occur.
- Gloves shall be changed and/or disposed of after contact with each patient.
- Members shall immediately or as soon as practicable wash their hands after removal of gloves.
- Masks and protective eyewear shall be worn to protect the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose, and eyes, and respiratory system during treatment of patients with illnesses that are likely to expose members to droplets of blood or body fluids or airborne diseases requiring universal precautions.
- Gowns shall be worn when during procedures that are likely to generate splashes of blood or other body fluids.

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Protection against accidental needle sticks.

- Do not recap needles or syringes.
- Do not bend or break needles or syringes.
- Do not remove needles from disposable syringes.
- Dispose of all used needles in approved sharps containers.

Mouth to Mouth Resuscitation

Members should refrain from performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. OPA's or NPA's combined with a bag-valve-mask or intubation, shall be the devices of choice. If mouth-to-mouth is unavoidable, members shall use a pocket mask or other mouthpiece as provided by the department.

Damaged PPE

Torn or damaged universal precaution equipment shall be replaced immediately or as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of each member to notify their supervisor of PPE in need of replacement or repair.

Housekeeping and Decontamination

- Equipment and surfaces contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious material shall be cleaned with a 1:10 solution of household bleach and water.
- Members cleaning contaminated equipment shall wear, at a minimum, gloves and eye protection.
- All equipment and surfaces shall be cleaned and decontaminated after contact with blood or other potentially infectious material.
- Non-disposable contaminated EMS equipment shall be cleaned in areas provided specifically for this purpose.
- Kitchen, bathroom, or laundry tubs shall not be used for the decontamination of EMS equipment.

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- Contaminated uniforms shall be handled as little as possible with a minimum of agitation prior to washing. Uniforms shall be washed in department provided washers separately from other dirty laundry.
- Contaminated waste either generated at the station or brought back to the station from an incident shall be disposed of in the contaminated waste barrels provided. Only contaminated waste shall be deposited into these barrels. Contaminated waste barrels shall be keep isolated from living areas and shall be secured.

Hepatitis B Vaccination and Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up

All members that are subject to occupational exposure shall be eligible to receive the hepatitis vaccine and vaccination series, prior to initial assignment.

Members subject to occupational exposure may elect not to participate in the vaccine and the vaccination series.

Members exempt from HBV Vaccine and vaccination series include:

- members that have previously had the HBV vaccine and vaccination series,
- antibody testing has revealed that the member is immune to the HBV,
- Antibody testing shall not be required prior to a member participating in the vaccine and vaccination series.
- the vaccine is contraindicated for medical reasons.

Members refusing to participate in the vaccine and vaccination series shall sign a statement of declination.

All members who have had a significant exposure incident shall receive a post exposure evaluation and follow-up.

Post Exposure Evaluation and Follow-up

Post exposure reporting, evaluation and follow up is addressed in SOP 400.24K.

Communication of Hazards

Labels and signs:

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- Warning labels shall be affix to all containers containing regulated waste.
- All labels shall include a BIOHAZARD symbol.
- Labels shall be fluorescent orange or orange-red or predominantly so with letters and symbols in contrasting color.
- Red bags or containers may be substituted for labels where appropriate.

Information and Training

All members shall participate in bloodborne pathogen (BBP) training, conducted by the ICO(s), at least annually.

- All new members shall receive BBP training prior to their first assignment.
- Additional training shall be conducted whenever this procedure is modified. The training may be limited to the modifications.
- Annual BBP training shall consist of;
 - A copy of OSHA 1910.1030,
 - A general explanation of epidemiology and symptoms of BBP diseases,
 - A review and explanation of this Procedure,
 - An explanation of methods for recognizing tasks and other activities that may involve exposure to blood and other potentially infectious material,
 - An explanation of the use of methods to reduce the risk of exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material,
 - Information on the types, proper use, location, removal, handling, decontamination, and disposal of PPE,
 - An explanation of the basis for the selection of PPE,
 - Information on HBV and HIV,
 - Actions to take, persons to contact, and incident reporting in the event of an exposure,
 - Information on post exposure testing and follow-up,
 - An explanation of signs and labels used to identify regulated waste

Approved:  6/17/2010
 Thomas E. Solberg, Fire Chief Date

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Exposure Control Appendix Definitions

Blood means human blood, human blood components, and products made from human blood.

Bloodborne Pathogens means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Contaminated means the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

Contaminated Clothing means clothing that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or may contain sharps.

Contaminated Sharps means any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes.

Decontamination means the use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface or item to the point where they are no longer capable of transmitting infectious particles and the surface or item is rendered safe for handling, use, or disposal.

Exposure Incident means a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of an employee's duties.

Hand Washing Facilities means a facility providing an adequate supply of running potable water, soap and single use towels or hot air drying machines.

HBV means hepatitis B virus.

HIV means human immunodeficiency virus.

Occupational Exposure means reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.

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Other Potentially Infectious Materials means (1) The following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebro-spinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; (2) Any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); and (3) HIV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

Parenteral means piercing mucous membranes or the skin barrier through such events as needle sticks, human bites, cuts, and abrasions.

Personal Protective Equipment is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard. General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shirts, or blouses) not in-tended to function, as protection against a hazard is not considered personal protective equipment.

Regulated Waste means liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials; contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if com-pressed; items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling; contaminated sharps; and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials.

Source Individual means any individual, living or dead, whose blood or other potentially infectious materials may be a source of occupational exposure to the employee. Examples include, but are not limited to, hospital and clinic patients; clients in institutions for the developmentally disabled; trauma victims; clients of drug and alcohol treatment facilities; residents of hospices and nursing homes; human re-mains; and individuals who donate or sell blood or blood components.

Sterilize means the use of a physical or chemical procedure to destroy all microbial life including highly resistant bacterial endospores.

Universal Precautions is an approach to infection control. According to the concept of Universal Precautions, all human blood, and certain human body fluids are treated as if

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known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens. Universal precautions is a set of precautions designed to prevent transmission if HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens when providing first aid.

Work Practice Controls means controls that reduce the likelihood of exposure by altering the manner in which a task is performed (e.g., prohibiting recapping of needles by a two-handed technique).

Invasive procedure means a surgical entry into tissues, cavities, or organs.