



INFECTION CONTROL

SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

PURPOSE

To establish protocols for the employment of universal precautions to protect Stoney Point Fire Department personnel and patients from exposure to infectious disease, and to detail the mandatory requirements for exposure reporting.

DEFINITIONS

Communicable Disease - illness caused by an infectious agent or its toxins that occurs through the direct or indirect transmission of the infectious agent or its products

Guideline - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

Infectious Disease - disorders caused by organisms, such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, or parasites which may be transferrable from one individual to another

Member – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

Shall - indicates a mandatory requirement

GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department recognizes the risk posed by potential exposure of its personnel to infectious and communicable diseases in the performance of their duties. Frequently the infectious disease status of a patient is unknown during emergency response activities. All response personnel shall take all necessary precautions to limit the opportunities for exposure to infectious disease. These precautions include mandatory immunizations, routine handwashing, proper wear of personal protective equipment and reporting of exposures to infectious or communicable diseases.

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Immunizations

Members of Stoney Point Fire Department are required to be vaccinated with the standard childhood immunizations prior to membership or employment with the department. These immunizations include:

- MMR – measles, mumps, and rubella
- TDAP – tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis
- IPV – polio
- Varicella – chickenpox
- HepA – Hepatitis A
- HepB – Hepatitis B

In addition to providing a copy of an immunization record that demonstrates vaccination for these diseases, members are required to receive the annual or as needed immunizations, such as:

- Influenza
- Other vaccines as required (COVID, etc.)

Tuberculosis

Each member is annually tested for tuberculosis using the PPD forearm test. Members are in close contact with patients during emergency incidents and may be inadvertently exposed to this respiratory disease. This test is mandatory, a positive test result requires immediate attention. A negative test result is required prior to resuming emergency response duties.

Hand Washing

Routine washing of an individual's hands throughout the day is an important method in limiting the spread of infectious or communicable disease. Additionally, all members shall

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thoroughly wash their hands following every emergency response, even when medical gloves were worn.

- Antiseptic soap is preferred as it kills or inhibits the growth of microorganisms, however, plain soap is also effective in mechanically removing microorganisms
- Hot water (to tolerance) is preferred to aid in the destruction of microorganisms
- Utilize alcohol-based hand sanitizers whenever it is impractical to wash hands

Hand Sanitizer is not a substitute for thorough hand washing.

Universal Precautions

Stoney Point Fire Department provides protective equipment for its members for use during emergency response activities. The proper use of this equipment is important in the preventing the spread of infectious or communicable diseases. This protective equipment includes:

- Nitrile Medical Gloves (used for every incident with patient contact)
- N95 Respirators (used for infectious respiratory incidents)
- Surgical Masks (used for every incident with patient contact during pandemic)
- Face Shields (used for incidents with a potential for body fluid spray)
- Surgical Gowns (used for incidents with a potential for body fluid spray)
- Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (as needed)
- Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer
- Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner
- Antiseptic Soap
- Biohazard Containers
- Disinfectant Spray Device

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Protective Measures

Utilizing the universal precautions is important to preventing the spread of infections or communicable disease. However, there are additional measures that can be taken without the use of specialized equipment. These measures increase the effectiveness of the universal precautions in prevention:

- Utilize a barrier mask when performing mouth to mouth resuscitation if a bag valve mask is unavailable
- Cover mouth and nose and encourage others, including patients, to do so whenever sneezing or coughing, or place a mask on the patient
- Always wear gloves, wear masks, protective garments, and eye protection when appropriate
- Properly dispose of personal protective equipment and used medical equipment
- Wash and sanitize hands after each call
- Clean and sanitize all medical equipment and vehicle after each incident

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Body Fluids

Body fluids are prevalent at many emergency response incidents. These body fluids may transmit infectious or communicable disease, especially through openings in the protective barrier of skin, such as eyes, mouths, nostrils, cuts, abrasions, or accidental needle sticks. Some of the body fluids that Stoney Point Fire Department members may encounter are:

- Blood
- Semen/Vaginal Secretions
- Urine/Feces
- Cerebrospinal Fluid
- Amniotic Fluid
- Saliva
- Mucus



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- Emesis

Direct contact with a body fluid or infected patient is not necessary for transmission of an infectious or communicable disease.

Infectious Disease Transmission

Infectious or communicable disease may be transmitted through physical contact with a body fluid, injection, ingestion, or inhalation. Generally, the human skin is a barrier against exposure to infectious contaminants. However, scratches, abrasions, cuts, punctures, etc. create openings in this barrier. Infected persons may transmit airborne particles when they breathe, cough or sneeze. Individuals may become infected by eating or drinking infected substances. Finally, individuals may become infected through an accidental needle stick that injects contaminated body fluids. No Stoney Point Fire Department member with a weakened immune system, or with skin lesions or dermatitis shall conduct patient care or handle used medical equipment as they are more susceptible to infection. The methods of transmission are:

- Absorption – infection through minute openings (abrasions, cuts, etc.)
- Ingestion – infection through swallowing infected substances (food, water, blood)
- Inhalation – infection through breathing in infectious particles
- Injection – infection through puncture of the skin by an infected object

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Personal Protective Equipment

Stoney Point Fire Department provides the following personal protective equipment to its members:

- Disposable Nitrile Medical Gloves
 - reduce the possibility of infection by the patient's microorganisms
 - reduce the transmission of the responder's microorganisms to the patient
 - reduce the cross contamination from one patient to another



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- Disposable N95 Respirators
 - prevent transmission of infectious agents through the air
 - prevent inhalation of small aerosol particles at 3 feet
 - for use at infectious respiratory incidents
 - tuberculosis
 - confirmed COVID
 - pneumonia
 - other
- Surgical Masks
 - prevent transmission of infectious agents through the air
 - prevent inhalation of large aerosol particles at 6 feet
 - for use at all incidents with patient contact during pandemic
- Protective Eyewear/Googles/Face Shields
 - prevent transmission of body fluid infectious substances into the eyes
 - worn during childbirth, suctioning, and massive hemorrhage
- Surgical Gown/Protective Clothing
 - prevent transmission of body fluids onto responder's clothing
 - worn during childbirth, suctioning, and massive hemorrhage

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Washing Contaminated Clothing



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Contaminated clothing shall be removed as soon as possible and washed with regular detergent in hot water (145 degrees or higher) for at least 25 minutes. Diluted chlorine bleach (1 to 10 ratio) may be used but may cause excessive fading. Boots and other leather items shall be brush scrubbed with soap and hot water in the bay sinks.

Specific Precautions

Every member shall understand the standard precautions to be taken when responding to an emergency response incident. These precautions may be broken down into their methods of transmission:

- **Body Fluid Precautions**
 - HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.
 - isolate patient from other patients
 - minimize responders in direct contact with patient
 - wear all appropriate personal protective equipment
 - wash hands as soon as possible
 - change gloves before contacting other patients
 - properly dispose of contaminated articles
 - clean and properly disinfect medical equipment
 - avoid needle stick injuries
 - follow exposure policy

- **Respiratory Precautions**
 - Tuberculosis, meningitis, measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, COVID
 - isolate patient from other patients
 - wear appropriate personal protective equipment (N95, surgical mask, etc.)
 - wash hands as soon as possible
 - change gloves before contacting other patients
 - properly dispose of contaminated articles
 - clean and properly disinfect medical equipment
 - avoid needle stick injuries

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- follow exposure policy

Exposure Policy

Any member that has been exposed or believes that they have been exposed to an infectious or communicable disease in the course of their duties shall follow this policy.

It is the responsibility of the member to notify their Company Officer or supervisor of a possible exposure to an infectious or communicable disease as soon as possible after the event. The Company Officer or supervisor is responsible for informing the Assistant Chief and Fire Chief of the exposure incident and completing the following forms:

- Stoney Point Fire Department Infectious Exposure Form
- Stoney Point Fire Department Personal Injury Report
- Stoney Point Fire Department Initial Medical Evaluation Form
- North Carolina Fire Casualty Report

A copy of each of these forms shall be forwarded to the Infection Control at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center through the administrative personnel. All information and instructions given to the administrative personnel shall be relayed to the potentially infected responder.

The Infection Control Officer shall be notified within 3 days of the exposure. In the absence of the Infection Control Officer (Safety Officer), the Deputy Fire Chief shall be notified and will report all information to the Infection Control Officer as soon as possible.

Stoney Point Fire Department shall ensure that the exposed member receives medical guidance, evaluation, and treatment as appropriate or necessary within 48 hours of the exposure. The department has an obligation to determine whether a significant risk of transmission has occurred and to take all appropriate measure to mitigate the exposure.

Stoney Point Fire Department is obligated to inform its members whenever a patient is determined to carry an infectious or communicable disease when the potential for an exposure has occurred. The individual responder is obligated to determine whether a significant risk of transmission has occurred.

Handling of Postmortem Bodies

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Generally, personnel should use the same precautions to protect themselves during postmortem handling of bodies that they would use if the patient were still alive. However, a mask is usually not necessary unless aerosols are expected to be generated. Investigative and medical examiner personnel should be notified about the patient's disease status so that appropriate precautions can be maintained during their investigation. Thoroughly wash hands following postmortem handling of bodies.

Member Health Maintenance

Stoney Point Fire Department members are in a high-risk category for exposure to infectious and communicable diseases. This is because members are exposed to patients with various disease processes and injuries as part of their duties as emergency responders. Therefore, the department is obligated to ensure that members maintain their personal health. Among these obligations are:

- Ensuring up to date immunizations
- Annual Pulmonary Function Test provided by the department
- Annual tuberculosis screen provided by the department

Medical Equipment Cleaning Policy

Following every emergency response where medical equipment is utilized, or other department equipment becomes contaminated with body fluids, the following procedures shall be conducted:

- Wear nitrile medical gloves while handling equipment
- Properly dispose of medical waste and disposable equipment
- Clean equipment
 - clean all areas first with soap and hot water
 - 1 to 10 solution of chlorine bleach and water
 - Neutral Disinfectant Cleaner spray
 - disposable rags or towels
 - soap and water for aluminum surfaces
 - chemical germicides for tuberculosis exposures

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- Properly dispose of all contaminated cleaning supplies

Disposing of Contaminated Materials Policy

Materials such as medical diagnostic equipment, stair chairs, backboards, stokes baskets, securing straps etc. that are reusable but come into contact with patients shall be cleaned and disinfected as described above. Disposable items such as gloves, masks, gowns, bandages, and medical supplies shall be disposed of with the arriving medical unit. However, if a medical unit does not arrive or the equipment is found after a call, that equipment shall be properly labelled and disposed of as Biohazard and placed in a red Biohazard bag for disposal. All sharps (needles and syringes) shall be placed in a Sharps container for disposal. DO NOT place Biohazard materials in the regular trash.

STONEY POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

INFECTIOUS EXPOSURE REPORT

Exposed Employee: _____ Rank: _____

Soc. Sec. #: _____ Home Phone: _____

Alarm #: _____ Vehicle Assignment: _____ District: _____

Name of Patient: _____ Sex: ___ Age: _____

DOB: _____ Address: _____

Suspected or Confirmed Disease: _____

Transported To: _____ Transported By: _____

If Emergency Transport, Unit #: _____ Time of Exposure: _____

Date of Exposure: _____ Type of Incident: _____

Which of the following were you exposed to:

Blood ___ Tears ___ Feces ___ Urine

Vomit ___ Sputum ___ Sweat ___ Other

What part(s) of your body became exposed; (Be Specific):

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Did you have any open cuts, sores, rashes, that became exposed?

How did exposure occur? (Be Specific):

Did you seek medical attention: Yes ___ No ___ If so, where?
Date:

Infection Control Officer Contacted: ___ Date: ___ Time:

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: ___ Employee's Signature:
Date:

Infection Control (**Safety Officer**) Officer's Signature _____ Date:

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Location of Accident _____

Date of Accident: _____ Time of Accident:

Name of Supervisor:

Name of Injured:

Address: _____ City, State, Zip

Phone#: _____ Soc. Sec. #:

Sex: _____ Nationality: _____ Age:

Job Title: _____ # of Children Under 18:

Where Did Accident Happen?



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How Did Accident Happen? (Describe Fully)

Describe Injury & Treatment:

Name & Address of Physician:

Name & Address of Hospital:

Probable Length of Disability:

Date of this Report

Employee Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE INITIAL MEDICAL EVALUATION

ORGANIZATION: STONEY POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

Employee Name: _____ SS# _____

Job Title: _____ Occurrence Date: _____

Reported Date: _____

Description of circumstances resulting in exposure incident (include route(s) of exposure):



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Description of the employee's duties as they relate to the exposure incident:

The following information should be determined and documented and provided to the exposed individual UNLESS PROHIBITED BY STATE OR LOCAL LAW or unless it is infeasible to do so. If the information is given to the exposed individual, applicable State or Local laws regarding the confidentiality of such information should be described.

Applicable State or Local law(s) regarding identification and testing of source individual AND feasibility of such identification and testing:

Name of source individual: _____ Unknown_____

Status of source individual, if known or tested:

HbSag:_____ HIV: _____

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BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE
INITIAL MEDICAL EVALUATION

ORGANIZATION: STONEY POINT FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMPLOYEE NAME: _____



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EXPOSED EMPLOYEE:

Previous HBV vaccination: Yes___ No___ If Yes, give shot dates:

Shot #1 _____ Shot #2 _____ Shot #3 _____

Other Information: _____

Antigen or Antibody testing results of **exposed** employee:

HIV: _____ HBV: _____

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HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL RECCOMENDATIONS

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION DATE: _____



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INDICATED

ADMINISTERED:

_____ Hepatitis B vaccination

This patient has been informed of the results of the medical evaluation and told of any medical conditions which result from exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials which require further evaluation or treatment. **A copy of this document has been provided to the patient and to the Stoney Point Fire Dept. Inf. Control Officer.**

Follow-up required: Yes ___ No ___ If Yes, next visit date

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL (NAME/SIGANTURE)

DATE _____

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All personal health information and exposure reports shall be maintained by the administrative personnel for 30 years in accordance with established laws and guidelines.



References

NC GS 130A

NFPA 1581

Guide To Managing An Emergency Service Infection Control Program (USFA)

Communicable Disease: Surveillance and Reporting (NC DPH)

Standard Precautions for all Patient Care (CDC)

Infection Control Basics (CDC)

Recommended Vaccinations for Infants and Children (CDC)

Infectious Disease (IAFF)

29 CFR 1910.1020

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