

LOS PINOS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



TITLE	NUMBER	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION DATE
INFECTION CONTROL – SCENE OPERATIONS	511	December 1 st , 2009	

The blood, bodily fluids, and tissues of all patients are considered potentially infectious, and Universal Precautions/Body Substance Isolation procedures will be used for all patient contact.

The choice of personal protective equipment (PPE) is specified in SOP 510. Members will be encouraged to use maximal rather than minimal PPE for each situation.

While complete control of the emergency scene is not possible, scene operations as much as possible will attempt to limit splashing, spraying or aerosolization of body fluids.

The minimum number of members required to complete the task safely will be used for all on-scene operations. When lifting and moving patients, ensure that there are sufficient members to protect the responders and the patient. Members not immediately needed, will remain a safe distance from operations where communicable disease exposure is possible or anticipated.

Hand washing is the most important infection control procedure.

Members will wash hands:

- After each patient contact;
- After handling potentially infectious materials;
- After cleaning or decontaminating equipment;
- After using the bathroom;
- Before eating;
- Before and after handling or preparing food;

Hand washing with soap and water will be performed for a minimum of one full minute. If soap and water are not immediately available, an alcohol based hand wash will be used, and performed for a minimum of 20 seconds. Immediately upon availability of soap and water, the member will wash their hands with soap and water for the required full minute.

Eating, drinking, smoking, handling contact lenses, or applying cosmetics or lip balm is prohibited at the scene of operations. Refer to SOP 512, Part II.

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Used needles will not be recapped, resheathed, bent, broken, or separated from disposable syringes. The most common occupational blood exposure occurs when needles are recapped.

Sharps containers will be immediately available on-scene.

Disposable resuscitation equipment will be used whenever possible. For CPR, the order of preference is:

1. Disposable bag-valve mask.
2. Disposable pocket mask with one way valve.
3. Mouth to nose/mouth resuscitation will NEVER be performed.

Patients with suspected airborne communicable disease will be transported with the patient wearing a face mask whenever possible. Ventilation systems will be turned on full whenever possible.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be removed after leaving the work area, and as soon as possible if contaminated.

After use, all PPE will be disposed of in appropriate containers marked for biohazard waste.

The shift Captain will handle on-scene public relations. The public should be reassured that infection control PPE is used as a matter of routine for the protection of all members and the patients they treat. The use of PPE does not imply that a given patient may have a communicable disease.

No medical information will be released on scene. Media queries will be referred to the PIO or their designee. Patient confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

At the conclusion of on-scene operations, all potentially contaminated patient care equipment will be removed for appropriate disposal or decontamination and reuse.

Larry Behrens

Larry Behrens, Fire Chief

December 1st, 2009

Date