

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROTECTION</b>
<b>Section:</b>	<b>PPG# 4400.1</b>
<b>Chapter:</b>	<b>Operations</b>
<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>7/1/98</b>

## 1.0 POLICY

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- 1.1 Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 shall provide a high level of protection against communicable diseases for member as described in Policy 4003.2 Infection Control Plan and Policy 4003.3 Airborne Pathogen Control Plan.
- 1.2 Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 shall provide appropriate personal protective equipment, training and immunization for all members for protection from communicable diseases.
- 1.3 Disclosure of STD status is prohibited, with exception of health care providers, including licensed EMS personnel. It cannot be transmitted for infection control purposes, only for the care, treatment and benefit of the patient.
- 1.4 The method by which Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 will transmit this information in a confidential manner is contained in the Infection Control Plan.

## 2.0 GUIDELINES

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- 2.1 **Confidentiality:** The protection of medical information and records of employees and/or patients as defined in medical ethics and federal and state law, which prohibits the release of such information without consent from the individual to whom the information or record pertains to.
- 2.2 **Infection control officer:** An employee or volunteer that is trained and knowledgeable on current medical issues, infection control mandates and practices, state and federal laws (Confidentiality, Ryan White Notification Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Federal Civil Rights Laws, HIPPA) and assigned the duties as defined under duties and responsibilities of the fire department infection control officers duties.

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

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- 3.1** The Fire Chief shall ensure that the infection control officer is qualified to assume and maintain the duties as prescribed in 3.3. Such qualification must include knowledge of and current training on appropriate medical practices, infection control standards, and applicable laws and rules.
- 3.2** The infection control officer shall be assigned to handle the day to day site and work practice-specific operations of infection control mandates, medical prophylactic and post-exposure treatment, confidential medical record keeping, and to act as the "designated officer" as required in the Ryan White Notification Act.
- 3.3** The duties and responsibilities of the fire department infection control officer shall include, but not be limited to:
- (a) Plan and coordinate infection control activities
  - (b) Work closely with the safety committee.
  - (c) Ensure that exposures are investigated.
  - (d) Devise corrective measures to prevent exposures.
  - (e) Ensure appropriate and timely medical follow-up to exposures as required by law and prescribed by the United States Public Health Service.
  - (f) Ensure confidential record keeping of all medical prophylactic and post-exposure treatment. Shall approve the release of any related information for whatever purpose.
  - (g) Ensure the application of all requirements of the Federal Ryan White Notification Law and act as "designated officer".
- 3.4** The fire department infection control officer, through the fire chief, shall have the authority and responsibility to identify and recommend correction of infection control procedures.
- 3.5** The fire department infection control officer shall maintain a liaison with staff officers regarding recommended changes in equipment, procedures, and recommended methods to eliminate unsafe infection control practices and reduce existing exposure conditions.
- 3.6** The infection control officer shall maintain liaison with local hospital and health department for compliance with Federal Ryan White Act and Washington State Public Health Law.
- 3.7** The infection control officer shall be the Fire Department contact person for all Hospital Reportable Exposures and act as a liaison between area hospitals and fire department members to provide notification that a communicable disease exposure is suspected or has been determined by hospital medical personnel.
- 3.8** The infection control officer shall follow the confidentiality requirements of chapter 246-100 WAC and the medical protocol requirements of WAC 2396-62-05209
- 3.9** The infection control officer shall ensure the fire department's compliance with state and federal confidentiality laws.

- 3.10** The infection control officer shall ensure the prompt reporting of all reportable diseases as mandated by Washington State's "Chapter on Communicable and Certain Other Diseases" (WAC 246).
- 3.11** The infection control officer:
- (a) Shall confer with the Training Officer for any remedial infection control training that may be needed and scheduled.
  - (b) Shall attach a copy of the Department's exposure form to a copy of the Injury Form when an exposure has occurred to be filed in the member personnel file.
  - (c) Shall contact employees and inform them of hospital reportable exposures; and that the test results of EMS reportable exposures are available.
  - (d) Shall arrange for initiation of follow-up treatment as required. Shall notify members that results of screening for HIV and Hepatitis B are available.
  - (e) Shall coordinate the immunization program and maintain records.
  - (f) Shall ensure that an adequate infection control plan is developed.
  - (g) Shall ensure that all personnel are trained and supervised on the plan.
  - (h) Shall establish personnel exposure protocols so that a process for dealing with exposures is in writing and available to all personnel.
  - (i) Shall institute the established exposure protocols immediately after report of an exposure.
- 3.12** The Privacy Officer, as identified in PPG# 3350.9 shall ensure the fire department's compliance with state and federal confidentiality laws.

## **4.0 GUIDELINES**

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- 4.1** Emergency Medical Vehicles shall be available at emergency incidents
- 4.2** Any mutual aid responding agency will provide medical protection for their members at an emergency incident.

## **4.0 REFERENCES**

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Washington State addresses the confidentiality of all persons with a sexually transmitted disease (STD including. HIV/AIDS and all blood borne forms of hepatitis (B, C, And Delta) in Chapter 70.24 -105 RCW and WAC 246-100-016.

PPG #3350.7