

Ames Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines

Book: 3 – Emergency Operations
Section: V – Medical Emergencies
Chapter: 1 – **Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan**
Date Approved: 09-16-2015 Revision No.:2 (10/04/07) Approved by: 
Review Date: 2018

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to protect the health and safety of Ames Fire Department (AFD) members by eliminating or reducing occupational exposures to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious bodily fluids.

POLICY:

The intent of this policy is to obtain compliance with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29CFR1910.1030) and Iowa Code.

PROCEDURES:

Program Administrator (Designated Representative)

A program administrator is appointed by the Fire Chief and is responsible for:

- The annual review of AFD's Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan (ECP).
- Coordination of bloodborne pathogen infection control training.
- Providing access to written ECP to all AFD members.
- Reviewing injuries or illnesses that involve potential and actual exposures.
- The maintenance of related records.

Covered Members

Members performing tasks meeting one of the following descriptions are covered under this plan:

- Tasks involving actual or potential for mucous membrane or skin contact with blood, body fluids, or tissues.
- Tasks without routine exposure to blood, bodily fluid or tissues, but potential exposures in emergencies.

Personal Protective Equipment


- Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as, but not limited to: medical gloves, eye protection, splash protection, surgical masks, and N95 respirators will be made available to members.
- AFD members are responsible for adhering to procedures meant to assist their personal safety, and are expected to practice universal precautions.
- Officers ensure that required work practices are followed and protective clothing and equipment are properly used (e.g., gloves, eye protection, etc.).
- CPR or rescue breathing mandates the use of either a pocket mask or a bag valve mask, and mouth-to-mouth contact is to be avoided.

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Blood or Bodily Fluid Contact

In the unlikely event that a member becomes exposed to blood or bodily fluids, actions to be taken include:

- Thoroughly wash the area as soon as possible with soap and water.
 - Use of hand sanitizer may be used if soap and water are not immediately available.
 - Avoid eating, drinking, smoking, or touching any exposed skin until gloves have been removed and your hands have been washed.
- Dispose of contaminated sharps, glass, or needles in puncture resistant and leak proof containers with proper warning labels.
- Remove and place contaminated gloves in red biohazard bags on AFD apparatus or a responding ambulance.
 - Note:
 - Biohazard bags are available at each fire station if additional contaminated PPE is discovered.
 - Dispose of biohazard bags after each use.
 - Send biohazard bags and/or disposable PPE with the responding ambulance service whenever possible.
 - Biohazard bags can be dropped off at Mary Greeley Medical Center for permanent disposal.
- Remove clothing that contacts bodily fluids as soon as possible and wash in Station #3's extractor using cycle #7 "Sanitize."
 - As a further precaution, clean external exposed areas of the extractor and any contaminated equipment using a ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water mixture.

Possible Exposure

Members subjected to an exposure incident should:


Immediately:

- Wash the exposed area thoroughly with soap and water.
- Flush exposed area around the nose or mouth with water.
- Irrigate exposed eyes with clean water, saline, or sterile irrigates for a duration of twenty minutes.
- Remove and clean/dispose of contaminated clothing, as described above.

Before units clear the scene:

- Complete the State of Iowa Report of Exposure To HIV or Other Infectious Disease form and send it with the transporting ambulance service. If patient is not transported, the form should be submitted to Mary Greeley Medical Center.
 - Do not jeopardize patient care to complete the form.

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- Advise transporting service that the affected firefighter will report to the Emergency Department for follow up, after returning to service.
- Note what hospital the patient is being transported to, to ensure follow up occurs.
 - For hospitals outside Story County, contact the receiving hospital's Emergency Department and inform them of the exposure and that additional paperwork will be sent if needed. Work with their Infection Control Representative to determine if blood tests will be needed and if they can be done locally.

When back in service at the Fire Station:

- Notify the on-duty shift commander using the appropriate chain of command of the possible exposure.
 - The on-duty shift commander will notify the AFD's Program Administrator and the Fire Occ. Med Group of the incident via email, same day.
- Complete an Employee's First Notice of Injury Report, Supervisor's First Notice of Injury Report, Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Report and Firehouse Fire Service Casualty Report.
 - A copy of the State of Iowa Report of Exposure to HIV or Other Infectious Disease "Copy 1" should also be turned into the Program Administrator.

At the Emergency Department:

- Affected member(s) should ask for the Infection Control Representative (during normal business hours) or the House Manager (during evenings, nights and weekends).
 - Determination will be made by the Infection Control Representative or their designee if the exposure is considered a significant exposure.
 - If the exposure meets the criteria for a significant exposure, blood samples will be taken from both the source patient and the exposed member.
 - If the exposure does not meet the criteria of a significant exposure, no blood samples will be taken.

Significant Exposure Follow Up


- Member(s) with a significant exposure, and the AFD Designated Representative will be contacted with blood work results as soon as possible by the hospital.
- Hospital-required testing and treatment will be paid for by the City of Ames and treated as an on-duty injury.
- Counseling is available through the City of Ames (COA) Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and through Occupational Medicine.

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Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Hepatitis B vaccinations are not required but will be provided free of charge to all members who have the potential for occupational exposure. Members will be provided a consent form and a declination form. Members desiring to have the hepatitis B vaccine must sign the consent form. Members who wish to decline the hepatitis B vaccine must sign the declination form.
- Signed forms will be placed into the member's personnel file and maintained according to the COA Record Retention Policy.

DEFINITIONS:

Designated Representative: A care provider's representative that acts as liaison with the receiving facility when a field exposure occurs .

Exposure Report: Report form used to document possible exposures to hepatitis B and C, HIV, tuberculosis, meningococcal meningitis, or other infectious disease, pursuant to Iowa Code 139A.19.

Infectious Body Fluids: Bodily fluids (e.g., blood, amniotic fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, pleural fluid, synovial fluid, cerebrospinal fluid, semen, vaginal secretions, etc.) visibly contaminated with blood and capable of transmitting HIV or bloodborne viral hepatitis.

Significant Exposure: Transmission of blood, bloody fluids, or other potentially infectious patient's bodily fluids onto a mucous membrane (i.e., mouth, nose, or eyes) of the care provider. This may include the transmission of blood, bloody fluids, or other potentially infectious bodily fluids onto open wounds or lesions with significant breakdown in the skin barrier.

REFERENCES:

Ames Fire Department [Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Report Form](#)

[City of Ames Record Retention Schedule](#)

[Employee's First Notice of Injury Report Form](#)

[Hepatitis B Vaccination Consent Form](#)


[Hepatitis B Vaccination Declination Form](#)

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Iowa Code § 139A.19

Report of Exposure to HIV or Other Infectious Disease Form, State of Iowa, Iowa Code 642-11.46.

Supervisor's First Notice of Injury Report Form

Toxic and Hazardous Substances: Bloodborne Pathogens, 1910.1030, Code of Federal Regulations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration.