
	<b>STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE</b>				
	OPERATIONS				
	AMBULANCE AND PERSONNEL HYGIENE				
	Effective: 01/Feb/91	Revised: 28/Dec/2020	S.O.G. #: O-320	Page: 1 of 2	

**1.0 Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this guideline is to establish procedures for personnel hygiene and equipment clean-up.

**2.0 Responsibility**

2.1 It is the responsibility of all Department personnel to understand the procedures documented in this Standard Operating Guideline.

**3.0 Clean - Up Guidelines**

3.1 Hand Washing.

3.1.1 All prehospital care personnel must attempt to wash their hands before contact with any patient and definitely wash their hands after contact with any patient. This shall be done regardless of the use of gloves. Each ambulance carries hand cleaning solution.

3.2 Needles and Syringes.

3.2.1 Needles should be disposed of in a rigid, puncture resistant container kept inside of the ambulance or in the drug bag. Needles should never be recapped.

3.3 Cleaning of the Ambulance and Equipment.

3.3.1 The ambulance and equipment used shall be cleaned with hospital or station supplied solution after each patient use. Gloves shall be worn when cleaning any contaminated surface.

3.4 Masks.

3.4.1 Although there are many potentially infectious viruses that cannot be transmitted by having a patient cough on you, masks should be worn whenever there is direct contact with a patient that has a Potentially Infectious Disease, (i.e., Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, MRSA, Covid-19).

3.4.2 Masks must also be worn when there is a risk of blood or body fluids splashing onto mucous membranes, such as when intubating or suctioning a patient, or when you are caring for a patient with major facial trauma.

3.5 Protective Eye Wear.

3.5.1 Use of glasses or goggles is required when there may be splattering of blood or body secretions. Every emergency vehicle has these goggles and shields for use.

3.6 Gloves.



3.6.1 Gloves shall be utilized when there may be contact with blood or other body fluids from a patient. Gloves in various sizes are provided in all ambulances. Proper removal of used gloves shall be completed in a safe manner and disposed of properly.

3.7 Employee Cuts and Lacerations.

3.7.1 Any open cut or any skin ailment that leaves the skin open (eczema, psoriasis, etc.) on pre-hospital care personnel should be covered with a moisture-proof covering. These precautions shall be taken before the E.M.T. or Paramedic leaves the ambulance to care for the patient.

3.8 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

3.8.1 Disposable resuscitation masks and one-way airways should be carried in all ambulances and easily retrievable when the need arises. There should be no mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

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3.9 Soiled Clothing.

3.9.1 According to the Center for Disease Control, the following is recommended:

3.9.1.1 Linen soiled with blood or body fluids should be placed and transported in bags that prevent leakage. Hospital linen will be left at the hospital in the proper location.

**4.0 Decontamination Methods - Resuscitation Equipment**

4.1 These methods shall be used on equipment regardless of the suspected diagnosis of the patient.

4.1.1 Non-critical surfaces (especially if large) that cannot be soaked must depend on physical removal to a large extent. Disinfectants require wet exposure to the surface for a period of ten (10) to thirty (30) minutes.

4.1.1.1 Clean item with a detergent/disinfectant

4.1.1.2 Rinse with household bleach in a 1:10 dilution after object is cleaned. If air dried it will probably not be wet on the surface for the required ten minutes needed to disinfect. Therefore, physical cleaning is the most important

4.1.2 If an item is soaked with blood or human tissue, physical removal is the primary step in the cleaning and disinfecting process.

4.1.2.1 Soak in department supplied chemicals to help loosen blood.

4.1.3 Semi-critical surfaces that may contact mucous membranes or affect respiratory tract (if the item is not disposable).

4.1.3.1 Disassemble parts.

4.1.3.2 Clean with a low sudsing neutral pH detergent, rinse, and rough dry.

4.1.3.3 Soak submerged in department approved solution.

4.1.3.4 Rinse well with tap water. Valves do not have to be sterile, just decontaminated.

4.1.3.5 Dry so bacterial contamination won't occur in storage.

4.2 Alternate Process.

4.2.1 Clean as described with detergent and the dry thoroughly. This must be done before sterilization.

**5.0 Reference**

5.1 Highland Park Fire Department

Approved:  Fire Chief