

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

OPERATING GUIDELINES – Ebola: Communicable Diseases

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Salt River
Fire Department

PURPOSE

To establish a guideline for responding to and operating at Ebola and other serious communicable disease incidents.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

This department recognizes that communicable disease exposure is a hazard that our personnel face. Communicable disease transmission is possible during any aspect of emergency response, including in-station operations. The health and welfare of each member is a joint concern of the member, the chain of command, and this department. While each member is ultimately responsible for his or her own health, the department recognizes a responsibility to provide as safe a workplace as possible

If the situation dictates the rescues have been stocked with the full protective PPE that follows the protocols for Ebola and other communicable diseases. If deemed that patient contact requires this level of PPE below are the guidelines for donning and doffing the PPE.

PROCEDURE

Based on the presence of symptoms and risk factors the EMS personnel need to don the proper PPE and follow scene safety guidelines. A training video has been placed on shared folders <http://connect/dept/fire/training> showing the proper donning and doffing of the PPE.

Keep the EMS responders to a minimum when assessing the patient and if the need for transport exists make sure the receiving facility is contacted and advised that a possible Ebola patient is being transported to their facility, they have protocols in place so please follow the requirements.

PATIENT MANAGEMENT

When treating and transporting the patient the patient should be given a facemask to wear if they can tolerate it. If the patient's clothes are soiled they can be removed and placed in a bio hazard bag and the patient put in protective PPE. All nonessential equipment can or should be removed from the transport vehicle to avoid possible contamination. Treat the patient according to all off-line protocols and if stable avoid IV establishment. If any question related to patient care contact medical control.

The transport vehicle will need to undergo decontamination before being placed back in service make sure you wear proper PPE to perform this procedure and make sure all possible infected materials are disposed of properly, consult the receiving ER staff on proper disposal units to collect all materials.