

## Infection Control

### 1.0 Purpose

Outline procedures to eliminate or minimize department members' exposure to potentially infectious blood, bodily fluids & airborne pathogens.

### 2.0 Scope

All members will use Universal Precautions when contact with blood or a bodily fluid is inevitable or even possible. Respiratory protection will be utilized when airborne infection is inevitable or even possible.

### 3.0 Responsibilities

3.1 **Member Responsibility**– All Fire Department members shall follow this SOP in its entirety to protect themselves from the possibility of bodily fluid contact.

### 4.0 Definitions

4.1 **Fire Department** – The Southwest Greensburg Volunteer Fire Department

4.2 **Universal Precautions**- designed to prevent transmission of blood borne diseases in health care settings. Recommendations call for the use of gloves and masks and protective eyewear when contact with blood or body secretions containing blood or blood elements is anticipated

### 5.0 Procedure: Member Protection

5.1 Hand washing with soap and water is recommended before and after contact with any patient or potentially contaminated object.

5.2 Universal precautions will be utilized in the care of all patients. Universal precautions include, but are not limited to, the following procedures:

5.2.1 GLOVES must be worn during all patient contact. Gloves must be changed when they are torn and after contact with each patient.

5.2.2 HANDS and other skin surfaces must be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids.

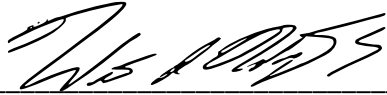
5.2.3 TURNOUT GEAR or COVERALLS are indicated if blood splattering is likely. The member's uniform (Long pants and Long sleeve shirt) is considered to be personal protective equipment in the pre-hospital environment.

5.2.4 MASK AND PROTECTIVE GOGGLES must be worn if splattering is likely to occur. Eyeglasses are acceptable protection if side shields are attached.

5.3 If potentially infectious materials such as blood penetrate a garment(s), the garment(s) shall be removed immediately or as soon as feasible. The Fire Chief or Deputy Chief must be contacted immediately and notified that the member has been contaminated and potentially exposed to an infectious substance. NOTE: PPE soiled with blood or bodily fluids may *not* be taken home for laundering. They are to be laundered at the fire station.

5.3.1 Any member exposure must be documented in an accident report in the Fire House reporting system and forwarded to the Fire Chief for processing.

Authorization:



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Fire Chief (signature)

01/07/2013

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Date