



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:  
Section:  
Original Date:  
Revised Date:

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Russellville Fire Department personnel exposed to potentially infectious substances receive appropriate treatment and/or follow up care after an occupational exposure.

## **POLICY**

An exposure is defined as a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of the employee's duties. This policy focuses on several pathogens common to healthcare providers: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

### **Post Exposure Actions**

If an exposure occurs, the area should immediately be washed with soap and water for at least five minutes. Mucous membranes should be flushed thoroughly with water. If potentially infectious material gets into the eyes of EMS personnel a Normal Saline wash should be initiated. If necessary, another EMT or paramedic should take over patient care to facilitate this. At no time should patient care be interrupted or degraded. The exposed personnel should continue on to the same emergency room as the patient when possible. Upon arrival at the emergency room the Infection Control Officer or his/her designee should be contacted immediately following the transfer of patient care, while the employee is at the Emergency Department. This contact will provide the Infection Control officer or his/her designee a description of the incident and possible exposure to the employee. The Infection Control Officer or his/her designee will make the initial determination regarding whether an actual exposure occurred. If it is determined that there was a potential exposure an Exposure Form must be filled out and signed by the member and his/her immediate supervisor. The source patient shall be identified and documented when possible and the following procedures will be followed.

### **Emergency Department Contact**

The Infection Control Officer or his/her designee will contact the charge nurse at the receiving facility and make notification of the need for source patient testing. Request that the tests be performed as soon as feasible. Document the name of the contact and ensure the following tests are conducted:

1. HBV surface antigen
2. Rapid HCV antibody
3. Rapid HIV

The Infection Control Officer (ICO) or his/her designee should follow-up in an hour to obtain test results if not already provided. When source testing results are obtained the ICO or his/her designee will inform the exposed employee of the results and inform the individual of applicable laws and regulations concerning disclosure of the identity and infectious status of the source patient.

Approved

Fire Chief

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### **Employee Post Exposure Examination**

If it is determined that an exposure has occurred the exposed personnel will have the option of being tested for potential communicable and infectious diseases. If consent is given this blood draw should be tested for a baseline HIV, Hepatitis B and C. Exposed personnel may refuse HIV serologic testing, in which case the sample shall be preserved for at least 90 days. If, within 90 days the employee elects to have the baseline sample tested, such testing shall be done as soon as feasible. The results of all tests are to be reported to the exposed member.

Personnel should return to service and complete the worker's compensation paperwork provided by human resources documenting the occurrence.

### **Follow-Up**

Follow up care or prophylaxis, when medically indicated will be provided as recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service. Members will be referred to the Arkansas Occupational Health Clinic (AHOC) or other providers as directed by worker's compensation. Care provided should include counseling and evaluation of reported illnesses. The following information should be provided to the physician providing post exposure care to the employee.

1. Copy of CFR 1910.1030
2. Description of the exposed employee's duties as related to the exposure
3. Documentation of the route of exposure and circumstances involved
4. Results of source patient blood if available
5. All medical records relevant to appropriate treatment, including vaccination record

### **Record Keeping**

All documents resulting from the exposure and post exposure follow-up will be maintained in the employee's medical records for the duration of employment plus 30 years.

Approved

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