EXAMPLE/SUGGESTED PROTOCOLS FOR FIRE/RESCUE FOR COVID-19

1. Remember this virus is a droplet precaution. This means it is transmitted by coughing, sneezing, or air expulsion from the lungs.

2. If you are told that the case you are doing is suspected COVID-19, or they say ILI (influenza like illness), or a confirmed case of COVID-19, ALL MEMBERS are to follow these guidelines:

- Always use universal precautions: gloves AND safety goggles. Proper handwashing remains our best defence.
- In the event of a confirmed or suspected case use universal precautions plus either a full face dual cartridge mask or SCBA, and gown. (If gowns are not available make sure to wear your coveralls and immediately launder them once back at hall)
- If the case is a rescue type of call, we are suggesting limiting the people in the hot zone and those that are doing patient care or assessment use the full face cartridge masks or SCBA. If the patient can tolerate it place an ear loop mask over the mouth and nose of the patient.
- In the event of a need for a NRB mask, try to put an ear loop mask over the NRB. If the need for CPR arises, we are advising to NOT provide rescue breathes, ONLY perform compressions, with the rescuers wearing full PPE. If there is confirmation of COVID-19, we are to suspend CPR altogether.
- While doing the rescue/extrication, utilize some form of physical barrier – i.e. sheet, blanket, tarp between the rescuers and the patient.
- When doffing PPE use two fingers of one hand to roll the glove lip down far enough so you can grab it without touching exposed skin, pull the glove half way off. Using the hand with glove half off and interior now exposed, grasp the other glove, and remove it so the glove is inside out. Now using your clean ungloved hand finish removing the last glove while holding the other and roll into itself capturing the first glove inside the second glove, there by exposing the interior of the second glove. Dispose of in proper fashion.
- Remove mask, SCBA, and/or gown following proper doffing procedures. Spray all surfaces with disinfectant spray and place in black garbage bag while wet. The masks and equipment will be terminally cleaned when back at hall.
- Any parts of the rescue truck/fire truck that may have been touched in the course of the call should be cleaned with the disinfectant spray.
• Once all PPE is removed, use hand sanitizer.
• When unloading at the hall, use the appropriate PPE (gloves and glasses) when wiping down the truck and equipment. Once the soiled equipment is removed spray the interior of carrying bag with the sanitizing spray and allow it to sit wet.
• Follow protocols for terminal cleaning of soiled equipment. YOU MUST wear appropriate PPE to do this task
• As soon as is practicable wash your hand with warm soapy water. Length of time for washing is best remembered by singing happy birthday in your mind, about 20-30 seconds.

Updated: 2020-03-28