SUMMARY

SB 432 (Dr. Richard Pan—D/Sacramento) was passed into law in 2017 to ensure that firefighters and other prehospital emergency medical personnel receive adequate and timely notification if they were exposed to a patient who has been diagnosed with a communicable disease. While hospitals have always been required to make these notifications, it has become more important than ever that they are made as soon as the diagnosis of a communicable disease is confirmed to ensure the early containment and treatment of a potentially deadly disease.

THIS LAW APPLIES TO:

All firefighters who have provided emergency medical or rescue services and have been exposed to a person afflicted with a communicable disease or condition listed as reportable, which can be transmitted through physical or oral contact or secretions of the body, including blood.

HOW NOTIFICATION WORKS

1. Firefighter transfers patient to healthcare facility and leaves contact information with facility’s infection control officer.
2. Patient is tested and diagnosed with COVID-19.
3. Healthcare facility infection control officer notifies the designated officer of the fire department and the county health officer.
4. Designated officer of the fire department notifies the firefighter of exposure.
5. County health officer notifies the firefighter of exposure.
6. Firefighter is notified.

DEFINITIONS

- Health facility infection control officer - the official or officer who has been designated by the health facility to communicate with a designated officer, or his or her designee.
- Designated officer - the official or officer of an employer of a firefighter or other personnel who has been designated by the state’s public health officer or the employer.

ENFORCEMENT

Employers are obligated to notify their employees of these protections as part of the Cal-OSHA Injury and Illness Prevention Program training required by paragraph (7) of subdivision (a) of Section 3203 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. Both the health facility infection control officer or their designee as well as the designated officer or their designee are required to be on site or available 24 hours a day.

If you or your department encounter a hospital that is violating this law, have your local union president contact CPF straight away and provide the name of the firefighter who was exposed, the name of the hospital, and the local incident reporting that was given to the hospital when the patient was transferred.

Contact Brittany Trudeau with the legislative department at legislation@cpf.org.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS STAY INFORMED