

INFECTION CONTROL POLICY

All Personnel of

NAME: Allegheny Mountain Rescue

**ADDRESS: 1400 Locust St
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-5166**

The purpose of this policy is to outline procedures to eliminate or minimize 'emergency responders' exposure to potentially infectious blood, bodily fluids & airborne pathogens.

All field staff will use Universal Precautions when contact with blood or bodily fluids are inevitable or even possible. Respiratory protection will be utilized when airborne infection is inevitable or even possible.

All 'emergency responders' are required to strictly adhere to this policy.

Policy:

- 1) Hand washing with soap and water is recommended before and after contact with any patient or potentially contaminated object.
- 2) Universal precautions will be utilized during the care of all patients. Universal precautions include, but are not limited to, the following procedures:
 - a) **GLOVES** must be worn during all patient contact. Gloves must be changed when they are torn or after contact with each patient. Gloves are available in the QRS unit.
 - b) **HANDS** and other skin surfaces must be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids.
 - c) **GOWNS** or plastic aprons are indicated if blood splattering is likely. This equipment is available in the QRS unit. The employees' uniform is considered to be personal protective equipment in the pre-hospital environment.
 - d) **MASK AND PROTECTIVE GOGGLES** must be worn if splattering is likely to occur. This equipment is available in the QRS unit. Eyeglasses are acceptable protection if side shields are attached.
 - e) **Used needles** must not be bent, broken, or unnecessarily handled. They should be discarded intact immediately after use into a needle disposal box. **RECAPPING IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.**
 - f) **Stretchers, baskets, backboards and any other equipment that comes in contact with patients** must be wiped down after each use with an approved disinfectant (e.g., rubbing alcohol) and let air dry.
- 3) The following steps must be followed to contain and dispose of Bio hazardous waste:
 - a) All waste classified, -as infectious waste will be placed in a red plastic bag and closed with tape or a "twist-tie" wire enclosure.
 - b) The closed bag will be placed in appropriately marked containers in the soiled utility room or an area specifically designated for infectious waste as appropriate to the hospital or receiving facility.
 - c) "Infectious waste" bags will not be placed in any trash chute or regular garbage cans.
 - d) Contaminated linen must be disposed of at the receiving facility.
 - e) If uniforms are contaminated, they must be washed at the base or at the hospital at least once before being taken home to wash.
- 4) The following steps must be taken when cleaning non-disposable equipment (e.g., blades, Magill forceps, and lighted stylettes). Personnel must wear gloves while cleaning equipment.
 - a) Clean the equipment of gross contamination with soap/water or alcohol.
 - b) Soak in high-level disinfectant (e.g., bleach and water solution) for ten (10) minutes.

- c) Rinse with hot water
- d) Store dry
- 5) Use of surgical mask is indicated for patients if they are suspected of having a disease transmitted via airborne vectors (e.g. TB). If such patients are intubated, surgical masks must be worn by all crewmembers on the call and a bio filter placed on the Endotracheal Tube.
- 6) If potentially infectious materials such as blood penetrate a garment(s) the garment(s) shall be removed immediately or as soon as feasible. The Officer in charge must be contacted immediately and notified that for personnel, equipment, or clothing are to be decontaminated.
NOTE: Uniforms soiled with blood or bodily fluids may not be taken home for laundering. They are to be laundered at the base or the receiving hospital.
- 7) Chlorine bleach is not to be mixed with other products, especially those containing ammonia, as chlorine gas could be produced.

By signature it is agreed that the above QRS service/personnel will abide by this regulation/policy.



Signature of Principal Official

**Chris Ruch
Commander**

06/13/2011 (Date)