



PPE Requirements, Bio Disposal, Exposure Policy

BSI: BSI must be worn during patient contact and during cleanup.

Nitrile Gloves: Must be worn during every patient contact.

Eye Protection: Eye protection must be worn when there is a risk of fluid splash to the face.

Eye protection is mandatory with suspected narcotic overdoses, intoxicated patients, child birth, and if a communicable disease are suspected. Eye Protection is also mandatory whenever there is visible blood on a patient and is strongly advised during any invasive procedure to include blood glucose sampling, IV therapy, intubation, and suctioning.

Mask: Masks must be worn if a patient presents with flu-like symptoms or a persistent cough. HEPA masks should be worn if the patient has a confirmed or suspected communicable disease.

Gowns: Gowns must be worn whenever there is a large amount of bodily fluids present. Gowns are mandatory during child birth or a suspected case of MRSA, TB, VRE, etc.

Personal Protective Equipment:

Safety Vests: Safety vest use is mandatory when on a roadway or right of way including snowmobile and ATV trails.

Eye Protection: Eye protection is mandatory during all rescue operations including but not limited to traffic accidents, machinery accidents, fire standby's, wilderness rescues, and trapped patients.

Leather Gloves: Leather glove use is mandatory during all rescue operations including but not limited to traffic accidents, machinery accidents, fire standby's, wilderness rescues, and trapped patients.

Sharps and Infectious Waste Disposal:

Sharps and infectious waste must be disposed of in accordance with the following guidelines;

Sharps: Sharps are to be disposed of in an approved sharps canister located in the ambulance.

Sharps include any needles, IV catheters, lancets, and test strips.

(DO NOT PUT TRASH IN THE SHARPS CONTAINER)

Sterile flushes, empty syringes, gauze pads are not sharps, they are trash.

Defined: Infectious Waste: Infectious waste is anything that is soiled with a large amount of bodily fluids such as clothes, linens, and wound dressings. All infectious waste must be put into a red bio-hazard bag.

Defined: Trash: Gauze pads used for wound care, used band-aids, lightly soiled gauze pads, wrappers, empty flushes, any product not soaked in body fluids is considered trash.

Ambulance and Equipment Disinfection Guidelines:

The following is a list of steps to prepare the ambulance for another patient post transport.

- 1.) All cot linens must be changed, and the cot disinfected.
- 2.) All cabinets, walls, doors, door handles, hand rails, phone, radio microphone, clipboard, and benches should be wiped down with disinfectant wipes.
- 3.) Floor must be swept and mopped with germicide.
- 4.) Driver's compartment must be cleaned including the use of germicide on the steering wheel, door handles, radio microphone, and any other surface that may be contaminated.
- 5.) All medical equipment used on the patient must be disinfected including longboards, splints, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, SpO2 Probe, and monitor cables and monitor surfaces.
- 6.) The primary jump kit should be restocked and placed back in the cabinet or ATV.
- 7.) Empty trash cans
- 8.) Check main tank O2 level.
- 9.) Ambulance restocked, or a stock list generated.

Post Exposure Guidelines

A significant exposure defined:

Contaminated or hazardous materials coming in contact broken skin, mucus membrane, eyes, nose or mouth.

Puncture, laceration, superficial scratch from a contaminated sharp such as a needle, IV catheter or scalpel.

After exposure you must follow the steps below:

- 1.) Stop patient care
- 2.) Flush area with a minimum of 500ml sterile water.
- 3.) Clean the area with sanitizer and CaviWipes.
- 4.) Allow area to air dry.
- 5.) Bandage if necessary.
- 6.) Resume patient care.
- 7.) Inform emergency department that you had an exposure and request to have blood drawn.
- 8.) Call a supervisor for guidance.
- 9.) Download and complete or request an exposure incident form.

After a transport members are to wash hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer.

Personal Protective Equipment and Safety Policy

Acknowledgment Form

I certify that I have read and completely understand the Personal Protective Equipment and Safety Policy located in the Great Lakes EMS Inc. employee handbook

I further understand that the Great Lakes EMS Inc. will provide me the required PPE free of charge and will assume no liability if I fail to use it in accordance with this policy and/or the manufactures recommendations.

I certify that I have been provided access to a PPE kit containing eye protection, mask, HEPA mask, gown, and gloves. I understand that PPE kits are located in all Great Lakes EMS Inc. Ambulances and would only be required for use while performing my job duties in close proximity to said ambulance.

If I do not comply with this policy I understand that I will be subject to disciplinary action up to and/or including loss of my membership privileges.

_____ Member Signature _____ Officer/FTO

_____ Printed Name _____ Date