



OREGON FIRE SERVICE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE TEAM

11/17/2020 Information Bulletin 2020-09 Safety Stand Down

Over the last several days and weeks, there has been a marked increase in COVID-19 cases and deaths throughout the State of Oregon. The winter outlook is grim as case counts continue to rise, and as emergency responders we know that our crews will be on the front lines. It is imperative that our crews not fall victim to complacency and maintain these recommended best practices. Our communities continue to be impacted by COVID-19 and will continue to look to us to lead from the front and set the example. The visualization of crews wearing masks, wearing the proper PPE, and maintaining distancing reinforces these practices' importance.

The fire service must maintain diligence in adhering to recommended best practices and there are simple steps to prevent the spread, and the communities we serve look to us for leadership and guidance.

The Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team recommends that every Oregon fire agency pause for a safety stand-down the week of November 17th, 2020.

Fire Chiefs, agency administrators, and firefighting personnel should review best practice recommendations, update one another on actions being taken, and, most importantly, listen to concerns and suggestions. The fire service has long relied on teamwork in our approach to problem-solving and will continue to do so as we respond to this increase in case counts.

Agencies are urged to review the recommendations and resources on the following pages as individuals, as a shift or crew, and as fire service leaders on Wednesday (11/18), Thursday (11/19), and Friday (11/20), or at your next drill, training, or meeting opportunity.



OREGON FIRE SERVICE CORONAVIRUS TASKFORCE SAFETY STAND DOWN BULLETIN TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020



The Office of State Fire Marshal – through the advice of the Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team – recommends that every Oregon fire agency pause for a safety stand-down the week of November 17th, 2020. Agencies are urged to review the following recommendations and resources as individuals, as a shift or crew, and as fire service leaders on Wednesday (11/18), Thursday (11/19), and Friday (11/20), or at your next drill, training, or meeting opportunity.

Recommended Self-Study for Individual Readiness:

- Review the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and your agency's procedures for self-screening
- Review education and training on preventing the transmission of infectious agents
- Review the correct use of PPE and strategies to prevent self-contamination and contamination of environmental surfaces during the process of removing such equipment
- Review policies and procedures for safely donning, doffing, cleaning/sanitizing, and disposing of PPE
- Review EPA-registered label instructions, equipment manufacturer's instructions, and agency standard operating procedures for disinfecting equipment and work surfaces

Recommended Shift/Crew Safety Briefing Discussion Topics:

- Discuss the potential for exposure to COVID-19 not to be limited to direct patient care interactions
- Discuss the importance of source control and physical distancing when engaged in non-patient care activities
- Discuss the importance of remaining physically distant from each other while taking breaks, eating, and drinking, especially when unmasked
- Review the process for cleaning PPE (as applicable), apparatus, fire stations, and workspaces and identify each crew member's role
- Review the agency's process for reporting exposures to COVID-19 and steps to obtain treatment

Recommended Actions for Fire Chiefs and Agency Administrators:

- Determine what (and how much) PPE is on-hand for volunteers and employees
- Determine how each workspace will be accommodated for physical distancing requirements
- Determine if apparatus and facility ventilation systems are prepared for COVID-19
- Develop a process for cleaning PPE (as applicable), apparatus, fire stations, and workspaces
- Determine what steps volunteers and employees will take if they request testing
- Develop a plan on how volunteers and employees will be notified if a patient is found to be COVID-19 positive
- Develop a process for the isolation and quarantine of volunteers, employees, and family members if local policy or public health officials require such measures
- Pre-identify emotional support resources for volunteers and employees and be able to provide contact information upon request.

Continued:

Resources

CDC First Responder Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html>

VIDEO – CDC Demonstration of Donning PPE:

<https://youtu.be/H4jQUBAlBrI>

VIDEO – CDC Demonstration of Doffing PPE:

<https://youtu.be/PQxOc13DxvQ>

CDC Wildland Firefighters FAQs:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/wildland-firefighters-faq.html>

EPA List of Registered Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19):

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19>

IAFC INFOGRAPHIC – COVID-19 PPE Decontamination Recommendations:

https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/1safehealthshs/covid19_quickrefppedeconrecommends_iafc-shs.pdf

IAFC WEBINAR Surviving the Job; Emotional Self Care for First Responders:

<https://iafc.org/events/event/2020/12/31/self-paced/surviving-the-job-emotional-self-care-for-first-responders>

IAFF Seven Best Practices to Reduce COVID-19 Exposure:

<https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/7-Best-Practices-to-Reduce-COVID-19-Exposure-1-1.pdf>

IAFF Recommended Guidelines for Selection, Care, and Cleaning/Sanitization of Structural Fire Fighting Protective Clothing:

<https://www.iaff.org/wp-content/uploads/Quick-Reaction-Guide-FF-Protective-Clothing-Flyer.pdf>

OHA COVID-19 Strategies for EMS Surge:

<https://shredsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2752.pdf>

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