

HAWKINS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

Exposure Control Plan for Blood borne Pathogens

The purpose of this plan is to identify and clarify for each member of our organization the steps that have been taken and the procedures that will be followed to reduce or eliminate the potential for workplace exposure to blood and body fluids.

Each member of the organization will receive training at least annually about the information contained in this plan and will be expected to follow the procedures outlined and used the equipment provided. Any questions should be referred to the safety officer for clarification.

All members of Hawkins County Rescue Squad are entitled to a copy of this Exposure Control Plan and are expected to abide by the safety procedures outlined in it. To obtain a copy, comment on the information, or ask any questions please contact the: Safety Officer.

Section one: Who is at Risk?

All members of the Hawkins County Rescue Squad **ARE** at risk for occupational exposure to blood or body fluids.

Members may be exposed during any patient care activity such as bleeding control, suctioning, veni-puncture, etc. Additionally, staff may have continued danger of exposure during the clean up of the vehicle or handling equipment used for patient care **AFTER** a call.

Section Two: Personal Protective Plan

Hawkins County Rescue Squad will provide the following Personal Protective Equipment at no cost for use by all members who may be at risk:

EQUIPMENT	LOCATION
Latex gloves in assorted sizes	Front of the rescue trucks, medical bag
Disposable face mask	Medical bag, airway kit
Disposable goggles / eyewear	Medical bag, airway kit
Disposable gowns or coveralls	Medical bag
Antiseptic hand cleaner / towelettes	Front of the rescue trucks, medical bag
Turnout Gear	Rescue 1- Driver Side back compartment, Rescue 2- Back Seat,

	Rescue 3- Back Seat
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Members are **required** to utilize this equipment in accordance with Universal Precautions.

Rescue members must wear all Turnout Gear at all motor vehicle accidents unless it has to be removed in order to provide direct medical care. Removal of any gear **must** not jeopardize your safety or the safety of other members.

Wear latex gloves inside extrication gloves when working around areas with potential for exposure.

All contaminated personal protective equipment and medical waste should be discarded in the wastebaskets lined with red bags in the ambulance and then in the biomedical waste containers at the destination medical facility.

Members should familiarize themselves with the location of Personal Protective Equipment prior to the need for use.

All at-risk members are **REQUIRED** to **ANNUALLY** attend the infection control-training program. This program will include the following topics:

-A review of this plan	-A review of equipment provided and its use
-A review of bloodborne diseases	-Disinfecting procedures and documentation
-A review of post exposure procedures	-Proper handling of medical waste
-Staff rights under this OSHA standard	-Question and answer sessions
-Hepatitis B vaccination information	

Section Three: Engineering and Work Practice Controls

Every effort will be made by the management of Hawkins County Rescue Squad to make the working environment as safe as possible for the entire membership. Safety and compliance with the information contained in this plan requires an ongoing effort by ALL members of the staff.

The most effective method that can be utilized to reduce the risk of potential exposure to members is the consistent use of the Personal Protective Equipment that is provided. In any situation where a staff member is unsure about which Personal Protective Equipment to use, the recommendations found in Universal Precautions should be followed.

Personal Protective Equipment

The list of the equipment provided for use of each member and its location is found in section two of this plan. Members are required to use this equipment and to discard it after use in the marked biomedical waste container found on the ambulance

Members are reminded to change gloves and wash hands between patients if possible.

Medical Waste

All medical waste (bloody gauze, bloody gloves, etc.) generated on a call shall be placed into the red bag in the wastebasket on the ambulance.

If any medical waste is returned to the building (**not recommended**), the red bag is to be secured, removed and placed into the biomedical waste container found in the ambulance.

Sharps Containers

Members should be cautious of all needles used by EMT's and Paramedics. Needles should NEVER be recapped, bent or broken; they should be placed in the sharps container intact. If multiple doses of medication are to be given, the ONE (1) handed scoop method of recapping that specific medication syringe may be used.

NEVER stick your hand or finger into a sharps container.
NEVER place medical waste / trash into a sharps container.

If a larger sharps container is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full, dispose of it at the Hawkins County Emergency Room. If the contents of a sharps container should somehow spill, do not pick up sharps by hand. Instead use a dustpan and brush or forceps.

Soiled Uniforms

Uniforms that become contaminated with blood or body fluids shall be changed as soon as practical. The uniform will be placed into the contaminated laundry container, a red bag, or will be immediately washed. Utilize Universal Precautions when handling contaminated clothing. No contaminated uniforms can be taken home for laundering.

Hand washing

Immediately after removing soiled gloves, members should wash their hands. If no traditional hand washing facilities are available (sink, soap, and water), the antiseptic hand cleaner found in the vehicle should be used. Hands should be washed again using traditional methods as soon as possible.

Section Four: Training

All at risk members are REQUIRED to ANNUALLY attend the infection control-training program. This program will include the following topics:

-A review of this plan	-A review of equipment provided and its use
-A review of bloodborne diseases	-Disinfecting procedures and documentation
-A review of post-exposure procedures	-Proper handling of medical waste
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In addition, ALL members will receive training about any new Personal Protective Equipment or any changes in workplace policies prior to their becoming effective.

ALL new members will receive training prior to any assignment that involves potential risk of exposure to blood or body fluids.

Any questions about Hepatitis – B vaccinations should be directed to the Safety Officer.

Section Five: Record keeping

Records on disinfection of vehicles and equipment shall be maintained by the: Safety Officer.

Attendance records of ALL training sessions will be kept by the: Safety Officer.

Medical records concerning any member who is occupationally exposed to blood or body fluids while on duty with the Hawkins County Rescue Squad will be maintained in a secure, limited access file for the required 30 year period post-membership with the service.

Section Six: Hepatitis B Vaccination Program

All at risk members identified in Section One are required to do ONE of the following:

- A. accept the FREE Hepatitis B vaccination series provided by Hawkins County Rescue Squad
- B. sign a refusal form indicating that you do not want the FREE vaccination series. (you may change your mind at any time)

- C. provide medical documentation that you do not require the vaccination series because you are immune due to a previous vaccination or exposure to Hepatitis.

Section Seven: Occupational Exposure Incident

In the event of an occupational exposure to blood or body fluids YOU MUST:

1. Report the exposure to the Safety Officer immediately. He/She will provide you with the appropriate worker's compensation paperwork as well as an occurrence report documenting how the exposure happened.

YOU WILL:

2. Be directed to a medical facility for blood testing and possible Hepatitis B supplement vaccinations or other physician recommended treatment.
3. Be provided any additional follow-up medical care and counseling related to the exposure and recommended by a physician at no cost.
4. Be provided a copy of all medical reports and test results at no cost within 15 days of their receipt by the Hawkins County Rescue Squad.

Universal Precautions

Since medical history and/or examination cannot reliably identify all patients infected with HIV or other bloodborne pathogens, blood and body fluids precautions should be consistently used for ALL patients. This approach is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control / AHA and is known as Universal Precautions.

1. Hands should be washed before and after contact with ALL patients, paying particular attention around the fingernails and between the fingers. If hands or other skin surfaces accidentally come in contact with blood or body fluids they should immediately be washed with soap and water.
2. Gloves should be worn for contact with blood and body fluids (i.e. urine, stool, oral secretions, wound or other drainage), mucous membranes or other non-intact skin of ALL patients.
3. Gloves should be worn for performing veni-puncture and other vascular access procedures.
4. Gloves should be changed after contact with each patient. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed.
5. Gowns should be worn when the soiling of clothes with blood or body fluids is likely.

6. Masks and/or goggles should be worn when it is likely that eyes and/or mucous membranes could be splashed with blood or body fluids. (i.e. when suctioning a patient with copious secretions)
7. Discard uncapped needles, syringes and sharps in puncture resistant containers designed and labeled for this purpose.
8. Discard trash in the usual manner.
9. Bag linen in the usual manner. Contaminated linen should be bagged and identified separately.
10. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids
11. If significant exposure (needle stick, mucous membrane splash or contact to non-intact skin) to blood occurs, report to Safety Officer for evaluation and follow-up.

**This plan will be reviewed at least annually by the: Safety Officer
OCTOBER 2005**