

Hamden Police Department General Orders

Policy Number: 030-001

Effective Date: August 01, 2005

Section: Communicable Diseases.

Rescinds:

Title: Prevention.

Approved By:

Approval Date:

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for members of the department to follow in the prevention of communicable diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis.

POLICY

Medical history and examination cannot reliably identify all individuals infected with AIDS or other infectious diseases. Blood and body fluid precautions should be consistently used for ALL suspected persons. This is especially true for people in emergency care settings in which the risk of blood exposure is increased and the infection status of the individual is unknown.

The Town of Hamden and Department of Police Service recognizes that communicable disease exposure is an occupational health hazard.

Procedures

A. General Safety Procedures.

1. Protective Clothing.

- a. Gloves should be worn whenever there is contact with non intact skin.
- b. Gloves should be worn when handling items or surfaces soiled with blood or body fluids.
- c. Masks and protective eyewear should be worn during activities likely to generate droplets of blood or other body fluids including vomitus and saliva.

2. Hand washing.

- a. Hands must be washed immediately after any contact with blood or body fluids.
- b. Hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed.

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3. Cleaning/Disinfection.

- a. If a blood or body fluid spill occurs on equipment, vehicle or environmental surfaces, the area should be covered with paper towels and a solution of one part household bleach to 10 parts water should be poured over the area and allowed to contact for a minimum of 10 minutes.
- b. The area should then be cleaned with soap and water, and the bleach/water solution should again be placed on the area for 10 minutes or more.
- c. Disposable gloves and mask should be worn when conducting the above disinfecting operation. All cleaning materials should be placed in a plastic trash bag and disposed of upon completion.

4. General Hygiene.

- a. Special personal attention should be given to one's hands. Guard against exposure to hangnails, cuts, blisters and other open wounds.
- b. Open areas should be covered with band aids at all times.

B. Safety Procedures for Providing Emergency Medical Care.

1. All safety precautions listed above should be followed.
2. Although saliva has not been implicated in AIDS transmission, mouthpieces or other ventilation devices should be used whenever administering emergency mouth to mouth resuscitation.

C. Safety Procedures for Crime Scenes.

1. Disposable gloves should be worn and hands should be kept clean and away from eyes, mouth and nose.
2. Smoking, eating, drinking or applying makeup should be not be allowed.
3. Surgical mask and protective eyewear should be worn when collecting or scraping dried blood to prevent particles from entering the mouth, nose or eyes.
4. Contact with sharp objects should be avoided.
 - a. If an accidental puncture or cut occurs, immediate medical assistance should be obtained. If an antiseptic is available, the wound should be cleansed, then washed with soap and water prior

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to seeking medical assistance.

5. If practical, only disposable items should be used at crime scenes where blood or body fluids are present.
6. All non-disposable items, such as cameras, tools etc., must be decontaminated by being cleansed thoroughly with a solution of 1 part household bleach dissolved in 10 parts water.
7. Spilled blood that has not been analyzed as evidence should also be cleaned with the bleach/water solution.

D. Submission of Suspected Infected Evidence for Examination.

1. Evidence or items submitted to the State Toxicology Lab for examination must be:
 - a. Properly sealed:
 - i. Body fluids or secretions must be packaged in the containers provided by the Toxicology Lab and labeled with a warning that the material may be infected.
 - ii. All other items must be placed in a plastic bag, sealed and labeled with a warning indicating the material may be infected.
2. Evidence or items submitted to the Forensic Lab must be:
 - a. Securely sealed.
 - b. The evidence or items must be labeled with a warning indicating the material may be infected.
 - c. A note must be affixed to the Request for Examination of Physical Evidence indicating the items submitted may be infected or are identified as coming from a high risk group.
 - d. If evidence is sent by mail to a forensic lab, it is subject to the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 72, which specifies that appropriate warning labels must be placed on the package and any liquid substance must be triple wrapped and sealed.

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E. Reporting Line of Duty Exposure to Hazardous Material or Infectious Diseases.

1. In the event an employee suspects on duty exposure to a material or infectious disease that may be injurious to the employee's health at some future time, the procedures set forth below will be followed:
 - a. The officer exposed will be taken to St Raphael's Hospital unless the person who exposed the officer was sent to another Hospital then the officer will be taken to that hospital.
 - b. First report of injury report will be filled out by the employee, along with a case incident report explaining the facts and circumstances behind the exposure, and submitted to the Shift Supervisor.
 - c. Supervisors report will be filled out and forwarded, along with a copy of the employee's reports to the Division Deputy Chief.

F. Issued Protective Equipment.

1. Each patrol vehicle will have a complete first aid bag which will include a surgical mask and at least one pair of disposable gloves.
2. Each officer will also be issued one pair of gloves with case to be carried while on duty.
3. The booking area in the detention facility will also be equip with disposable masks and gloves.

G. Training.

1. The Training Supervisor will be responsible for obtaining any pertinent current information regarding communicable/infectious diseases and disseminating it to department personnel in a timely manner.