



11.01 Infection Control at Incidents SOP

Section 1 - Purpose and Objectives

(1) To describe the procedures to be followed for infection control at fires and incidents.

Section 2 - Scope

(2) This policy applies to all CFA members.

Section 3 - Procedure

(3) The Incident Controller or CFA Agency Commander will:

- a. Ensure that all CFA members are wearing the appropriate Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) and Protective Equipment (PE) for the tasks they are to perform.
- b. Ensure that the number of CFA members exposed to potential sources of infection is kept to a minimum.
- c. Be aware of the potential presence of infectious materials. When in doubt, assume that such materials are present and respond according to the Standard Precautions below.

Standard Precautions

(4) CFA members should follow the “Standard Precautions” at incidents where potential sources of infection are present. The Standard Precautions are:

- a. Treat all blood and body products as potential sources of infection.
- b. Where there are sharps present or there is a risk of transmission of blood-borne viruses, double glove (e.g. nitrile gloves with general purpose or firefighting gloves).
- c. Wear eye protection where the risk of contamination is present.
- d. Cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof dressings before tasking at the incident.
- e. Following the incident, wash exposed or contaminated body areas with soap and water (or disinfectant if available).
- f. Treat contaminated items in accordance with 11.08 Disposal of Sharps, Syringes and Contaminated Products SOP.
- g. Unless alternate arrangements have been made, all equipment and Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) contaminated with hazardous substances should be double bagged (the colour and thickness of the bag will depend on the contaminant – refer to the Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) [Decontamination Flow Chart](#)). The bag should be sealed by tying a gooseneck to the bag with tape or a zip-tie, and tagged with a CFA ‘warning contaminated materials’ label or swing-tag.
 - i. All bagged equipment and Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) must be transported to CFA’s approved Laundry Contractor (as set out in [Contaminated CFA Personal Protective Clothing – Request for Cleaning](#)) with a red PPC bag as soon as practicable, as arranged by the District Duty Officer (DDO) / State Duty Officer (SDO).

- ii. Resuscitation equipment should be safely stored and kept out of service until decontaminated and disinfected.
 - h. Record all actions taken along with any recorded incidents in the personal injury section of the Fire Incident Reporting System (FIRS) and complete relevant documentation on CFASafe (refer to [14.06 Notification of Injuries and Fatalities SOP](#)).
- (5) When requested to assist in the cleanup of blood or other bodily fluids, the following actions should be taken:
- a. Use an absorbent material such as paper or sawdust.
 - b. Disinfect the area with an applicable chemical agent (if available).
 - c. Use copious quantities of clean water.
- (6) Where a CFA member has suffered an exposure, follow the procedures outlined in the SOP 11.02 – Medical Monitoring – Biological and Hazardous Substances.

Safety Notes

(7) CFA members should always undertake a dynamic risk assessment when undertaking their duties.

Environmental Notes

(8) All infectious materials should be disposed of in accordance with 11.08 Disposal of Sharps, Syringes and Contaminated Products SOP.

Section 4 - Definitions

Commonly defined terms are located in the CFA [centralised glossary](#).

Standard Precautions: are the primary strategy for minimising the transmission of healthcare-associated infections. Standard precautions must be used when providing care to all patients, regardless of whether they have an infection or not.

Sharps: Objects or devices having sharp points or protuberances or cutting edges, capable of cutting or piercing the skin.

Blood-borne Viruses: A virus that is transmitted by blood or body fluids that contain blood.

Section 5 - Related Documents

[AS 3816:2018 Management of clinical and related wastes](#)

[The Environmental Protection Authority \(EPA\), Clinical Waste – Operational Guidance \(IWRG612.1\)](#)

[Personal Protective Clothing Decontamination Flow Chart](#)

[Contaminated CFA Personal Protective Clothing – Request for Cleaning](#)

Status and Details

Status	Not Yet Approved
Effective Date	To Be Advised
Review Date	To Be Advised
Approval Authority	
Approval Date	To Be Advised
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Accountable Officer	Jason Heffernan Chief Officer
Responsible Officer	Garry Cook Deputy Chief Officer Operational Response & Coordination
Author	Emma Pollard
Enquiries Contact	Specialist Response

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"CFA member" - Refers to all CFA volunteers, volunteer auxiliary workers, officers, employees and secondees.

"Incident Controller" - The individual designated by the control agency to have overall management of the incident and who is responsible for all incident activities.

"Dynamic Risk Assessment" - The continuous assessment and control of risk in the rapidly changing circumstances of an operational incident. DRA is an intuitive thought process and is typically not recorded.

"Personal Protective Clothing (PPC)" - Includes clothing used to provide protection to CFA members from the risks associated with performing a specific operational task for which they are competent and endorsed

"Protective Equipment (PE)" - An object that is utilised during the execution of CFA operational activities and training, which includes breathing apparatus, gas suits, gas monitoring equipment, oxygen resuscitation equipment, safety harnesses and all technical rescue equipment.

"CFA Agency Commander" - A CFA member with overall management of CFA resources at a fire or incident for which CFA is a support agency.

"FIRS" - Fire and Incident Reporting System.

"Infection Control" - To provide personal protection against the potential exposure to infectious diseases through contact with sources of infection, including blood and/or bodily fluids.

"Hazardous Substances" - Hazardous substances are substances that can harm people's health. They may be solids, liquids or gases. In the workplace, they are often in the form of fumes, dusts, mists, and vapors. Hazardous substances broadly fall under chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear waste and include biological contaminants, hydrocarbons, chemicals, and asbestos.