

Title: Bloodborne Pathogen (BBP) Exposure Control Plan

ISSUED BY: Fire Chief Chris Swiger

RESCINDS: All previous BBP Program Policies and Guidelines

SCOPE: This policy applies to all North Whidbey Fire and Rescue (NWFR) personnel with occupational exposure risk to blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM).

PURPOSE: This policy provides the framework for preventing and responding to infectious disease exposures. It ensures NWFR remains in compliance with WAC 296-823 and the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act and adheres to the Island County Medical Program Director (MPD) protocols for emergency responder safety.

PROCEDURES:

1. Exposure Determination

1.1. Personnel at Risk: All NWFR personnel and support staff whose duties involve a high probability of contact with blood or OPIM are covered under this plan.

1.2. Vaccinations: The district shall provide the Hepatitis B vaccine series at no cost to all personnel with occupational exposure risk. Personnel who choose to decline the vaccine must sign a formal Hep B Declination Form to be kept in their confidential medical file.

2. Immediate Post-Exposure Protocol

2.1. The 2-Hour Command Requirement: Medical evaluation for Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) must be initiated within two (2) hours of any significant exposure.

2.2. Initial Notification: The exposed member shall immediately notify their supervisor and the on-duty chief officer.

2.3. Command Responsibility: The chief officer or supervisor shall ensure the member is transported to the emergency department immediately and shall initiate the NWFR Infectious Exposure Report.

2.4. Sharps Injury Log: If the exposure involved a needle-stick or sharps injury, the supervisor shall record the entry in the NWFR Sharps Injury Log. To maintain member privacy, only the incident number shall be used on the log.

3. Notification and Liaison (The Ryan White Protocol)

3.1. Chief Officer Role: Any chief officer is authorized to initiate the notification process with the receiving medical facility to ensure the "Source Individual" is identified and held for testing per RCW 70.24.

3.2. Health and Safety Coordination: While any chief officer can initiate the response, the health and safety officer (HSO) or HR representative shall be notified within 24 hours to manage the long-term medical follow-up, L&I documentation.

3.3. Record Retention: In accordance with WAC 296-823-170, all exposure records (Section 1 of the report) shall be maintained confidentially by the district for the duration of the member's employment plus thirty (30) years.

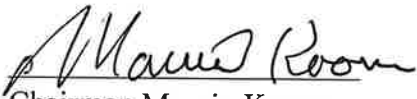
4. Compliance and Standards

4.1. Legal Framework: This plan acts as the district's formal Exposure Control Plan as required by WISHA. It shall be reviewed annually by the Safety Committee to evaluate engineering controls and equipment safety.

4.2. Equipment Review: The Safety Committee, including non-managerial suppression personnel, shall meet annually to review the Sharps Injury Log and evaluate the effectiveness of current PPE and engineering controls (safer medical devices).

4.3. Training: All at-risk personnel shall receive BBP training upon initial hire and annually thereafter. Records of this training shall be maintained for three (3) years.

Approved by:


Chairman Marvin Koorn


Fire Chief Chris Swiger