Message from Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro

PROTOCOLS/GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING SUSPECTED EBOLA INCIDENTS

Effective immediately, the following dispatch, response and decontamination protocols are to be used for emergency calls that may involve potential cases of the Ebola virus.

**DISPATCH**

Dispatchers (EMD) will inquire of callers if the patient is presenting with symptoms of fever. If “yes”, the caller is asked if the patient has travelled in the last month to West Africa. If the response is “yes”, the EMD attempts to confirm that travel involved the countries of concern (Liberia, Guinea or Sierra Leone), and, if response is “yes” or unclear, the call is coded in EMS CAD with F/T suffix (fever/travel).

**RESPONSE/PPE**

F/T calls will prompt the following response: a HAZ TAC EMS unit and supervisor will be dispatched for patient care and transport. HAZ TAC members will wear TyChem F suit (rated to protect against blood borne pathogens as well as chemical protection) and PAPR breathing system (Power Air Purified Respirator), which is being recommended NOT for respiratory protection – as Ebola virus is not airborne - but because it allows for full face protection from any bodily fluids.

Upon arriving at the scene and confirming the F/T circumstances, the supervisor or HAZ TAC unit will request a second EMS unit to assist with driving the ambulance back so they can remain in full PPE during transport. They will also request Fire Operations HAZ MAT resources be sent to the destination hospital.

**DECON/DOFFING PPE**

HAZ MAT Technician Units (HTMU engines or squads) will be dispatched along with HAZ MAT battalion chief to the receiving hospital to assist HAZ TAC members in deconning ambulance/used equipment and doffing PPE. (After patient is handed off to hospital, the HAZ TAC members will exit hospital; ambulance will be deconned and the HAZ TAC members sprayed by HAZ MAT with chlorine dilute bleach solution; after allowing several minutes to dry, HAZ TAC members will be valet doffed by HAZ MAT members.)

Disposable waste will be red bagged and left at/with appropriate hospital personnel for disposal.

**CFR-D RESPONSES**

Until further notice, CFR units will NOT be dispatched to F/T type calls. However, units should be aware of the potential for confronting an Ebola/infectious disease case while responding to any CFR incident not previously coded as F/T by EMD.

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