



**State of Connecticut  
Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection  
Commission on Fire Prevention and Control**

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## **1. Firefighter Near Miss Report of the Week**

### **Crew Exposed**

#### **SUMMARY**

Medical emergencies have become a common response for many fire departments. Because of the high frequency, sometimes we let down our guard and complacency sets in. In this week's report, during a severe facial trauma incident, the patient vomited. This resulted in body fluids being sprayed in the face and mouth of personnel, causing an exposure.

#### **EVENT DESCRIPTION**

A medic unit responded to a dispatched call of a male patient who had fallen from a three-story balcony and who had massive facial/head trauma. While the medic was trying to secure an airway, the patient threw up through a clenched jaw, spraying body fluids into the face and mouth of fire personnel.

Crews filled out exposure reports and the hospital conducted a screen for contagious diseases that turned out to be negative.

[View the report: Crew exposed during EMS incident.](#)

#### **TAKE-AWAYS**

In emergency medicine training, we learn of body-substance isolation (BSI) and making the scene safe. Medical gloves have become commonplace, and rarely do firefighters step off the rig without them. However, how often do we protect ourselves from exposures in other manners?

In this report, the patient's history was unknown. Universal precautions can be defined as taking measures on all patients, as if they have communicable diseases. We're aware of what we can do

to prepare for the possibility of basic exposures; our personal protection goes farther than gloves when performing advanced maneuvers.

## **DISCUSSION**

- Review your department's PPE guidelines and policies for EMS calls. Other than medical gloves, what other PPE should be used more frequently on EMS responses? What best practices encourage the use of underused PPE?
- Discuss the more common bloodborne pathogens you come across on your EMS responses. What are their common signs and symptoms? Discuss each of these diseases to be more familiar with them.
- Review your department's guidelines and policies on bloodborne-pathogen exposures. What specific actions must occur if you're exposed at work? Where would you go for appropriate testing? What paperwork must be filled out and by whom? What kinds of records are kept to ensure you're protected for the long term?
- Review your department's guidelines and policies on decontaminating medical equipment and uniforms. How do you decontaminate your station wear? Should your structural PPE become grossly contaminated with blood products, what does the manufacturer recommend for proper decontamination? How often is your medical equipment (equipment bags, EKGs, etc.) decontaminated? Is this adequate?]

## **LEADING PRACTICES**

Every scenario in medical training starts with the phrase, "BSI—is the scene safe?" This is drilled into all emergency medical responders during initial training and continued education. However, what exactly does this mean? If we think we're protected from any exposure just by covering our hands, we need to reevaluate how we're operating.

Glove protection may be sufficient on the initial response, but as we conduct certain procedures, our level of protection may need to increase. Any sort of advanced airway placement may result in regurgitation. Without the luxury of having a fasting patient, we must be prepared for this and protect ourselves appropriately.

Intravenous/intraosseous access may also require more caution, depending on the type of catheter used. Having a sharps container readily available is paramount.

Finally, use the dispatch information to prepare for what PPE may be necessary. Any flu-like symptoms or excessive nausea or vomiting may potentially be a bacterial or viral infection looking for a new host. Use NIOSH-approved HEPA filtration N-95 masks on both you and the patient to reduce your risk of expose.

## **RELATED NEAR MISS REPORTS**

- [Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens](#)
- [Potential Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure on EMS Call](#)
- [Ambulance crew exposed to Hepatitis C infected blood](#)

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [IAFC EMS Safety: Living with Communicable Diseases and MRSA](#)
- [IAFF Infectious Disease Resource](#)
- [Firehouse Bloodborne Pathogens Refresher](#)
- [OSHA Fact Sheet: Bloodborne Pathogen Standard \(PDF\)](#)

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## 2. 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Workshops

The application period for the 2016 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) is slated to open sometime in September. This is in contrast to the application periods of the last few years that have been in November and December. FEMA is starting its application development workshops soon and we have attached a copy of the 2016 AFG Workshop Schedule for your convenience. There is no need to register.

Workshop Sessions scheduled for Connecticut are as follows:

8/31 (Wednesday)	9:30AM	New Haven Regional Fire Training Academy	230
Ella Grasso Blvd.,		New Haven, CT 06519	
8/31 (Wednesday)	7:00PM	Watertown Fire Department	935
Main Street,		Watertown, CT 06795	
9/1 (Thursday)	9:30AM	Connecticut Fire Academy	34
Perimeter Road,		Windsor Locks, CT 06096	
9/1 (Thursday)	6:00PM	Lebanon Fire Department	23
Goshen Hill Road,		Lebanon, CT 06249	

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## 3. Long Hill FD to Host Fall Firefighter 2 Course

The Long Hill Fire Department is hosting a fall Firefighter 2 course beginning Thursday, September 15, 2016 at their Meadow Rd Hall. Class cost is \$300 which includes the textbook. For questions or to register please contact Assistant Chief Greg Sanfanandre by email: [gsanfanandre@longhillfd.com](mailto:gsanfanandre@longhillfd.com) Class schedule is attached.

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## 4. CFA to Host Blood Drive – Save the Date

Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment today! The Connecticut Fire Academy and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive on Wednesday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from 1p.m. to 6:00 p.m. For an appointment, please visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

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## 5. CFPC/CFA Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

For the latest fire service news and information follow the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Commission on Fire Prevention and Control – Connecticut Fire Academy on its official Twitter page [@CTCFPC](#) or Facebook [@CTFireAcademy](#)



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## 6. Employment Opportunity – Firefighter – Suffield Fire Department

SUFFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT  
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR  
**ENTRY LEVEL FIREFIGHTERS**

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT [WWW.FIREFIGHTERAPP.COM](http://WWW.FIREFIGHTERAPP.COM)**

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016***

*The written examination is anticipated to be held on Saturday, September 24, 2016 – Time to be announced. Mark your calendar as there will be no makeup exams or refunds.*

### **GENERAL DUTIES**

The Town of Suffield seeks qualified applicants for the position of Firefighter. This is a full time (40 hour per week\*), hourly position in the Fire Department. Some of the duties include but are not limited to: Controls and extinguishes fires; protects life and property; maintains Fire Department buildings, quarters and equipment as a member of a fire company and performs related work as required. Additional information about the Town of Suffield and the Suffield Fire Department can be found at [www.suffieldtownhall.com](http://www.suffieldtownhall.com).

### **SALARY/BENEFITS**

Starting Salary: \$ 45,198\*

Thirteen paid holidays per year • Paid vacation days • Health Insurance • Retirement Plan • Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability and Life Insurance.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

- Age: Applicants must be 18 years of age.
- Education: Graduation from a standard high school or technical school or equivalent as certified by the State Board of Education

- License: Applicants must possess and maintain a valid driver's license with appropriate endorsement to drive fire apparatus.
- Certifications Required: Certification to Pro Board/IFSAC accredited Firefighter II, CPAT (Candidates Physical Ability Test) certificate, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
- Residency: Applicants must be U.S. citizens and reside within a fifteen (15) mile radius of the Suffield Fire Departments Main Station within one (1) year of date of hire.
- Physical Examination: A rigid physical examination in compliance with the NFPA 1582 Standard on Comprehensive Occupational Medical Programs for Fire Departments 2013 edition conducted by the Department and Town's medical authority will also be required
- Drug Testing: Applicants shall be required to submit to a drug test as part of the pre employment medical examination.
- Character Requirements and other factors: Applicants must meet the highest legal and ethical standards. Honesty and integrity are paramount to the profession. Candidates will undergo a rigorous background investigation. An applicant may be disqualified for poor employment history, recent use of illegal drugs, or previously undetected criminal activity.

### TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The selection process will include, at a minimum, a detailed review of your application packet, and the successful completion of the Department's selection process, which includes but may not be limited to the following:

- Written examination (Passing 70%)
- Oral examination (Passing 70%)
- Detailed background investigation
- Medical examination
- Chief's interview
- Fire Commission Interview

*The Town of Suffield is an equal opportunity employer. The above posting is intended as a guide and is not a complete description of the position or process.*

*\* Collective Bargaining Agreement is currently being negotiated.*