

# East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District



## *SOP 513 Monthly PPE Inspection*

**Implementation  
Date: 11/2000**

**Revision Date(s): 09/2004**

**Reviewed Date(s):**

**Forms or Attachments: None**

\*In general, members should select PPE appropriate to the potential for spill, splash, or exposure to bodily fluids. No standard operating procedure or PPE ensemble can cover all situations. Common sense must be used. When in doubt, select maximal rather than minimal PPE.

\*Disposable latex gloves will be worn during any patient contact when potential exists for contact with blood, body fluids, non-intact skin or other infectious material. All members responding to any emergency medical or trauma incident will have access to extra pairs of disposable gloves.

\*Gloves will be replaced as soon as possible when soiled, torn, or punctured. Hands will be washed as soon as practical after glove removal.

\*Disposable latex gloves will not be reused or washed and disinfected for reuse.

\*Where possible, gloves should be changed between patients in multiple or mass casualty situations

\*Structural firefighting gloves will be worn in situations where sharp or rough edges are likely to be encountered.

\*Extrication Gloves will not be worn for structural response with bunker gear.

\*Heavy-duty utility gloves may be used for the handling, cleaning, decontamination, or disinfection of potentially contaminated patient care equipment.

\*Facial protection will be used in any situation where splash contact with the face is possible. Facial protection may be afforded by using **both** a face mask and eye protection, or goggles. When treating a patient with a suspected or known airborne transmittable disease, face masks or particulate respirators will be used. The first choice is to mask the patient; if this is not feasible, mask the crew member(s).

\*Face shields goggles on structural firefighting helmets will not be used as an acceptable substitute for infection control purposes.

\*Fluid-resistant gowns are designed to protect clothing from splashes. Structural firefighting gear also protects clothing from splashes and is preferable in fire, rescue, or vehicle extrication activities. Gowns may interfere with, or present a hazard to, the member in these circumstances. The decision to use barrier protection to protect clothing and the type of barrier protection used will be left up to the member. Structural firefighting gear will always be worn for fire suppression and extrication activities.

\*Under certain circumstances, head covers and/or shoe covers will be required to protect these areas from potential contamination. Structural firefighting gear (impervious boots, helmets) also may be used for barrier protection.

## **SUMMARY**

\*If it's wet it's infectious - use gloves

\*If it could splash onto your face, use eye shields and mask or goggles.

\*If it's airborne, mask the patient yourself.

\*If it could splash on your clothes, use a gown or structural firefighting gear.

\*If it could splash on your head or feet, use appropriate barrier protection.