

STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES

ARTICLE: C-100
SECTION: EMERGENCY MEDICAL OPERATIONS
DATE: 10/09/17
SUPERSEDES: None, new policy
TITLE: Response to Fatality Incidents

Purpose: Guideline for Fire District personnel in response to fatalities and assisting a Deputy Coroner and Law Enforcement agencies.

DEFINITIONS:

Open Body: Any fatality that has open, outside of the skin, exposed body parts, fluids or substances that meet the definitions of the Districts air or blood borne pathogens.

Extrication or extraction: Any fatality that needs forcible entry tools, recovery, or extraction tools that are carried on any of the District's fire engines, quint, rescues or watercraft units.

Proper PPE: Properly sized Tyvek suit, airway protection (N95 or SCBA), eye protection, nitrile gloves and proper foot protection. Foot protection yet to be defined

Absolutely no use of structure turnouts, grass turnouts or duty uniforms in the absence of proper PPE.

POLICY:

1. Any fatality with open body parts that require placement in a body bag will be performed within the Districts air and blood borne policy. Appropriate PPE shall be worn by employees who participate in Deputy Coroner functions.
2. As a courtesy early notification to the Deputy Coroner through the appropriate Law Enforcement agency having jurisdiction is required.
3. Notification of the Battalion Chief is required by the Engine Company Captain if the fatality movement cannot be performed within the Districts blood borne & PPE policy guidelines.
4. Refusal by an Engine Company or individual to assist in the movement, bagging and lifting of a fatality, that has no need of extrication or extraction, will not be met with discipline by District management.

5. If an Engine Company or individual requires the need of the District's Critical Incident Stress Management Team, the team will be activated through the normal request process. This function will be completed prior to the Engine Company or individual leaving for his/her off duty time.
6. Employees exposed to Blood Borne Pathogens shall immediately notify their Shift Battalion Chief according to the District Exposure Control Plan Policy C-43.
7. If Engine Companies are requested to remain on scene during investigations by Law Enforcement, Shift Battalion Chiefs shall be notified immediately to provide appropriate coverage & logistical support.
8. Any deviation from this policy requires the notification and approval of the Districts Fire Chief and/or Deputy Fire Chief.

END

Written by: Joe Culvahouse

Approved by: _____


Michael W. Whorton, Fire Chief