



Swatara Fire-Rescue

Michael A. Ibberson B.S., CFO

Chief of Department

599 Eisenhower Boulevard, Harrisburg, Pa 17111

Office: 717-564-2551 | Cell: 717-648-2551 | Fax: 717-564-5895

Email: mibberson@swataratwp.com Website: www.stfr91.com

March 18, 2020

Re: COVID-19 Response

I would like to take this opportunity to address growing concerns and fears associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic event and the response paradigm we are deploying.

First, I would like everyone to know and understand that our number one priority is the safety of our responders and their families, who are knowingly and willingly putting themselves at risk to help people in need.

To ensure the safety and wellness of our personnel and their families, we are implementing extensive measures to reduce exposure. It is paramount the procedures you will find in the attached documents be followed 100% of the time. As the state and federal government have been stating, limiting exposures is how we can reduce and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Please understand that this event continues to be fluid and dynamic as new information emerges daily. Our command staff has been meeting every night to process information that is made available to us and we will deliver the most up to date information to you as soon as possible. Lastly, I would like to thank the Assistant Chiefs, EMC Powers and staff for their hours of dedication to this response plan. If you have any questions, please contact an officer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Ibberson".

Michael A. Ibberson



Swatara Township
Swatara Fire-Rescue Services

Incident Action Plan (IAP)

COVID-19 Response

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

Operations Modified Response Protocol

- Duty Officer Program
 - o There will be a duty officer rotation instituted within the township until further notice.
 - o The on-duty duty officer will cover the entire township rotating 8-hour shifts.
 - o The duty officer will be the only officer to sign on the air for county and will be making the decisions for all calls during their shift.
 - o If not the on-duty duty officer, you are to refrain from getting on the radio or responding to any calls; provide manpower on apparatus.
- EMS Response
 - o Sick Person (2nd due)
 - Class 3 will require no response, fire will be placed available by Duty Officer
 - Class 1 respond, all personnel will remain in apparatus and Duty Officer or EMS will determine if necessary, to assist.
 - o Trauma
 - 1-person response all personnel will remain in apparatus and Duty Officer or EMS will determine if necessary, to assist.
 - Minor Injury
 - 2-person response all personnel will remain in apparatus and Duty Officer or EMS will determine if necessary, to assist.
 - Significant injury
 - o Lift Assist
 - All personnel including Duty Officer remain outside until EMS communicates need for personnel
 - o Unconscious/Fainting
 - 1-person response all personnel will remain in apparatus and Duty Officer or EMS will determine if necessary, to assist.
- Fire Calls
 - AFA
 - Nothing Showing
 - All personnel will remain in apparatus and Duty Officer will determine if necessary, to assist.
 - Structure Fire
 - Normal response
 - Smoke Investigations
 - Nothing showing
 - o 2-personnel of first in crew investigates only
 - o All other personnel to remain in apparatus
 - Smoke/Fire Showing
 - o Normal response
 - Gas Leak / Odor of Gas
 - 2-personnel masked entry with 2 meters (1 officer with crew if possible)
 - All other personnel to remain in apparatus
 - Vehicle Accident
 - Normal response
 - If no patients, duty officer is to cancel deployment
 - We will not sweep streets or lay absorbent

Fire Department Response to EMS Incidents

Response plan if arriving prior to EMS

- Minimize number of person(s) having close contact with the patient without compromising patient care.
- A single medically trained firefighter may make entry into the residence with the appropriate PPE (Eye Protection, Mask, Gloves) plus a patient surgical mask. If a surgical mask is not available, the responder should utilize a FD SCBA unit.
- Provide a surgical mask to a potentially infected or “At Risk” patient and maintain a safe distance of >6 feet if there are no life-threatening concerns. An “At Risk” patient is someone without an active fever or respiratory symptoms, having traveled or having contact with anyone having traveled through China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, or Italy.
- If you need to address life-threatening issues (ABC’s), do so while minimizing exposure risks. If time permits, have the provider utilize a gown.
- Make notification to the County Communications Center of the number of potentially infected individuals and their locations. Make this notification via cell phone.
- All providers having “Close Contact” with a patient without PPE must be considered as “Potentially Infected” and sheltered in place until evaluated.
 - “Close Contact” is defined as anyone within 6 feet of the patient for a prolonged period.
 - “Potentially Infected” is defined as all patients with fever AND respiratory symptoms, having traveled through China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy.
 - “Potentially Infected” is also defined as a patient with fever AND respiratory symptoms in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 infection.

Response plan if arriving after EMS:

- FD personnel should stage next to the EMS unit until requested to assist by EMS. FD will be advised what level of PPE is needed at that time.
- Prepare to don PPE for patient contact.
- Use only the personnel you need to complete the assignment. Minimize your risk.

Response plan for Cardiac Arrests and other urgent medical patients:

- Attempt to do the most with the least amount of personnel.
- All Personnel should have a minimum amount of PPE on (Eye Protection, Mask, Gloves) when providing care.

Decontamination Procedure:

- Upon completion of the incident, the FD provider should wash their hands or utilize an alcohol based (65-95%) hand sanitizer when immediately doffing PPE.
- When returning to the station, the provider should shower and utilize their spare set of clothing.
- If there is a risk of exposure to members, Chief Orth must be contacted at (717) 648-8626.

COVID-19 Exposure Process Flow

March 18, 2020

START

- Definition of Required PPE:
- Eye Protection
 - Surgical Mask
 - Medical Gloves
 - TYVEK suit / boot covers

Was PPE Equipment Used?

YES

No Exposure

NO

Were you within 6' of the Patient?

Yes

Possible exposure

Hospital tests patient

Negative Test From Hospital

Yes

No Exposure

No

Dept. notified of COVID-19 positive patient test result

- Self monitor at work
- Check temp twice daily

Notify Chief 91-3

Possible PUI

NO

If patient has tested positive for COVID-19:

- Contact with Chief Ibberson or designee
- Isolation plan (home, station, etc.)
- Avoid visitors and pets
- Follow guidance from physician