

500.1 Purpose

This Exposure Control Plan establishes APSTVFD procedures to protect personnel from occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM), and to provide consistent prevention, reporting, evaluation, and follow-up practices.

500.2 Scope

This plan applies to APSTVFD personnel whose assigned duties may reasonably involve occupational exposure, including firefighters, emergency medical responders, and members performing patient care, rescue, decontamination, or related support functions.

500.3 Responsibilities

- **Fire Chief:** Provides overall authority for implementation, enforcement, resources, and review of this plan.
- **Safety Officer / Exposure Control Administrator:** Coordinates training, exposure documentation, post-exposure follow-up, plan review, and corrective actions.
- **Officers:** Ensure appropriate PPE and safe work practices are used during assigned operations.
- **Personnel:** Follow required precautions, use assigned PPE, promptly report suspected exposures, and complete required training.

500.4 Exposure Determination

- Providing first aid or emergency medical response.
- Contact with blood, body fluids, OPIM, contaminated materials, or potentially contaminated equipment.
- Rescue operations where blood or OPIM may be present.
- Cleaning or decontaminating vehicles, tools, PPE, patient-care equipment, or work areas.

500.5 Exposure Control Methods

- **Universal Precautions:** Blood and OPIM shall be treated as potentially infectious.
- **Engineering Controls:** Available sharps containers, biohazard containers or bags, handwashing facilities, and other appropriate controls shall be used.
- **Work Practice Controls:** Personnel shall perform hand hygiene, avoid unnecessary handling of sharps, and clean or decontaminate equipment after use.
- **Personal Protective Equipment:** Gloves shall be used when appropriate. Eye/face protection, masks, protective clothing, and other barriers shall be used when the anticipated exposure warrants them.
- **Housekeeping:** Affected work areas, equipment, apparatus, and reusable items shall be cleaned and decontaminated as appropriate. Contaminated items shall be isolated until properly cleaned, disinfected, or disposed of.

500.6 Hepatitis B Vaccination

- Hepatitis B vaccination shall be made available at no cost to personnel with occupational exposure when required by the applicable exposure-control program.
- An eligible member who declines vaccination shall complete the required declination documentation. A member who initially declines may later request vaccination as permitted by the program.

500.7 Post-Exposure Procedures

- Immediately wash needlesticks and cuts with soap and water. Flush splashes to the nose, mouth, or skin with water and irrigate exposed eyes with clean water or saline.
- Notify the officer in charge and Safety Officer / Exposure Control Administrator as soon as practical.
- Complete the APSTVFD Occupational Exposure Report promptly.
- Arrange confidential medical evaluation and follow-up as soon as possible.
- Document the route and circumstances of exposure and, when legally and practically available, source-individual information necessary for medical follow-up.
- Confidential medical information shall be protected and maintained separately from routine operational records.

500.8 Training & Communication

- Personnel with occupational exposure shall receive initial and recurring training appropriate to their assigned duties.
- Training shall address exposure risks, universal precautions, PPE, engineering and work-practice controls, Hepatitis B vaccination, exposure reporting, post-exposure procedures, and access to this written plan.
- Biohazard labels, containers, and signage shall be used where required.

500.9 Recordkeeping

- Training, exposure, and medical records shall be maintained for the periods required by applicable law and department policy.
- Confidential medical records shall have restricted access and shall be maintained separately from routine incident or personnel records as appropriate.
- Exposure reports and corrective-action documentation shall be securely maintained.

500.10 Plan Review & Updates

- This plan shall be reviewed at least annually and whenever changes in tasks, procedures, equipment, staffing, or applicable requirements affect occupational exposure.
- The review shall consider safer work practices and devices when relevant to APSTVFD's actual operations.

500.11 Emergency & Corrective Actions

- Provide immediate first aid or decontamination and obtain appropriate medical evaluation.
- Secure contaminated equipment or areas to prevent secondary exposure.
- Review the event to identify contributing factors and needed corrective actions.
- Implement appropriate changes in PPE, equipment, training, work practices, or procedures.

Approval / Annual Review

Safety Officer: _____

Date: _____

Fire Chief: _____

Date: _____