

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY	Procedure No: FR-EMS-3.0.4 Revision No: 4 Page 1 of 3
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Title: CLEANING AND DECONTAMINATION OF VEHICLES/ EQUIPMENT

1.0 **PURPOSE:**

1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the health and safety of Fire/Rescue personnel and any patient under care by:

- providing a clean treatment area; and
- Properly cleaning and decontaminating equipment in a timely manner to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, eliminating contaminants

1.2 Cleaning and decontamination of vehicles and equipment is a requirement under NYS Dept of Health Part 800.

2.0 **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

2.1 The Duty Fire Officers are responsible to the Fire Chief for implementing this procedure and ensuring that it is carried out.

2.2 All personnel have the responsibility to ensure the cleaning and decontamination of the ambulance and equipment.

2.3 The responsibility for cleaning and decontamination of items such as responders clothing or other items not considered equipment, will be handled by parties designated by BNL.

PREPARED BY: K. Licata _____ Author/Date Filing Code: FR20SR02	REVIEWED BY: M. Carroll _____ Fire Chief/Date J. Vaz _____ Division QAO/Date J. Searing _____ Operations Manager/Date	APPROVED BY: F. Marotta _____ Division Manager/Date EFFECTIVE DATE: <u>9/1/02</u> REVIEW CYCLE: 3 years
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MERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION PROCEDURE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY	Procedure No. FR-EMS-3.0.4
	Revision No. 4
Procedure Title: Cleaning and Decontamination of Vehicle Equipment	Page 2 of 3

3.0 **DEFINITIONS:**

3.1 Cleaning

3.1.1 Remove dirt and matter from the Ambulance and its equipment.

3.2 Decontamination

3.2.1 Remove possible infectious material such as blood, body fluids and to destroy any viruses that can be transmitted.

4.0 **PREREQUISITES:**

4.1 Firefighters have attended training given by the Training Officer or his/her designee on bloodborne pathogens.

4.2 Bleach water solution (1/4 cup bleach per gallon water) should be made up fresh at the time of use.

4.3 Red bags shall be available for any bloody or contaminated items.

5.0 **PRECAUTIONS:**

5.1 Firefighters will wear appropriate personal protective equipment that is commensurate to the task being performed, including utility gloves and will follow the selection criteria as specified in FR Procedure FR: EMS 3.0.8 Biohazard Personal Protective Equipment Selection Protocol.

6.0 **PROCEDURE:**

6.1 Clean-Up Procedure for After Each Call

Note: Ensure that minimum PPE of gloves are used when performing the steps.

6.1.1 Remove used or soiled linen and place in hospital designated bag for laundering at receiving hospital.

6.1.2 Discard any soiled dressings, bloody materials, and other contaminated, non-sharps waste in a red bag and leave at the hospital.

6.1.3 Place reusable equipment which needs reprocessing in plastic bag (any color other than red).

6.1.4 Check the vehicle for any needles or other sharps which may have been left and carefully dispose of in a sharps container.

6.1.5 Follow attached DOH guidelines for vehicle and equipment cleaning/decontamination.

6.2 Periodic Cleaning of the entire Ambulance/Rescue Unit and all Equipment.

A general cleaning and decontamination will be performed at least once a year or as necessary. (See Bar Code Systems).

Note: This procedure is not to be confused with the weekly fire apparatus washing.

MERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION PROCEDURE BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY	Procedure No. FR-EMS-3.0.4 Revision No. 4
Procedure Title: Cleaning and Decontamination of Vehicle Equipment	Page 3 of 3

7.0 **IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING**

7.1 Bloodborne pathogen training in accordance with NYS and Suffolk County EMS Guidelines.

8.0 **REFERENCES:**

8.1 NYS DOH EMS Code Part 800, Section 800.21(p) (9): "Cleaning and Decontamination of authorized EMS Response Vehicles/Equipment", dated June 1997.

8.2 FR: EMS 3.0.8 Biohazard Personal Protective Equipment Selection Protocol.

9.0 **ATTACHMENTS**

9.1 Suffolk County EMS memo dated 6/2/97.

9.2 NYS DOH Guideline – Recommendations for Decontamination and Cleaning of Rescue Vehicles

9.3 NYS DOH Guideline – Cleaning/Decontamination of Emergency Medical Equipment