

# CENTRAL CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

A Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Health

Manual	Emergency Medical Services Administrative Policies and Procedures	Policy Number 556  Page 1 of 2
Subject	Exposure to Blood and/or Body Fluids	
References	Centers For Disease Control; Division 2.5 of the California Health and Safety Code; Ryan White Comprehensive Aids Resources Emergency Act	Effective 04/18/83

## I. POLICY

Emergency medical services personnel in Fresno, Kings, Madera, or Tulare County shall utilize this policy in the event of a communicable disease exposure. Emergency services personnel and bystanders providing prehospital patient care and patients receiving such care are at risk of being exposed to communicable diseases through the transfer of blood and/or body fluids from one person to another person. Emergency services personnel shall utilize "universal precautions" when providing patient care and shall take appropriate precautions to protect their own health and the health of others.

If during the course of the provision of prehospital patient care prehospital personnel are exposed to another person's blood and/or body fluids, such exposure and treatment shall be **in conjunction with each employer's required OSHA Illness and Prevention Plan.**

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Bystander Care Provider - An individual who is not a member of the emergency services system (EMS, fire services, or law enforcement services) that provides prehospital care to a victim of sudden illness or injury.
- B. Designated Officer - Each employer of emergency response employees shall designate one person, referred to as the Designated Officer, who is responsible for notifying their employees of exposure procedures. The Designated Officer should ideally have training in the provision of health care or in the control of infectious diseases.
- C. Emergency Services Personnel - Emergency services personnel includes all members of the EMS system, fire department personnel, and law enforcement personnel.
- D. Exposure to Blood and/or Body Fluids - An exposure is when there is the transfer of blood and/or other potentially infectious body fluids from one person to another person and there is the potential of the transmission of any disease which can be transmitted between persons.
- E. Potentially infectious body fluids – Body fluids which can potentially transmit communicable diseases include:
  - 1. blood;
  - 2. saliva;
  - 3. respiratory discharges/secretions; or
  - 4. interstitial fluids.

Approved By EMS Division Manager	Signatures on File at EMS Agency	Revision  10/15/2011
EMS Medical Director	Signatures on File at EMS Agency	

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F. Transfer of Blood and/or Body Fluids - The transfer of blood and/or body fluids can occur through:

1. blood and/or body fluids in the eyes, nose, mouth;
2. blood and/or body fluids exposed to an open wound;
3. needle-sticks or puncture wounds (including human bites); or
4. mouth to mouth resuscitation.

G. Universal Precautions - Precautions used by health care providers to prevent the transfer of blood and/or body fluids from one person to another person. Universal precautions shall be utilized by all emergency services personnel when providing patient care.

### III. PROCEDURE

A. Emergency Services Personnel Exposed to Blood and/or Body Fluids

If an emergency services worker is exposed or suspected to have been exposed to another person's blood and/or body fluids, as defined above, the affected individual shall comply with the following:

1. Notify your employer of the incident and follow your agency's Occupational Health/Worker's Compensation reporting procedures.
2. Report the exposure or suspected exposure to the receiving hospital (nurse or physician);

B. Bystander Exposed to Blood and/or Body Fluids

If an on-scene emergency services member has information that a bystander provided emergency medical care for a prehospital patient and the bystander was exposed or suspected to have been exposed to the patient's blood and/or body fluids, as defined above, that emergency services member shall advise the bystander to follow up with their physician or hospital.

C. Patient Exposed to another Person's Blood and/or Body Fluids

If during the course of rescuing a patient or providing patient care, a patient is exposed or suspected to have been exposed to another person's blood and/or body fluids, emergency services personnel shall:

1. Inform the "patient team leader" that such an exposure occurred;
2. The "patient team leader" shall report the exposure or suspected exposure to the receiving hospital (nurse or physician).