



NFPA 1500

The NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program*, was developed to provide a consensus standard for an occupational safety and health program for the fire service. The intent of this standard is to provide the framework for a safety and health program for a fire department or any type of organization providing similar services.

Section 8-5.1 of the NFPA 1500 Standard provides the following requirement when dealing with infection control:

"The fire department shall actively attempt to identify and limit or prevent the exposure of members to infectious and contagious diseases in the performance of their assigned duties."

Section 8-5.2 continues with:

"The fire department shall operate an infection control program that meets the requirements of NFPA 1581, *Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program*. When appropriate, inoculations, vaccinations, and other treatment shall be made available."

The NFPA 1500 Standard also provides the following appendix item in regard to contagious diseases:

"When fire department members routinely respond to emergency medical incidents, the fire department should consult with medical professionals and agencies on measures to limit the exposure of members to infectious and contagious diseases. This should include the provision and maintenance of equipment to avoid or limit direct physical contact with patients, when feasible."

NFPA 1500 also addresses protective clothing for emergency medical operations. Section 5-5.1 states:

"Members who perform emergency medical care or otherwise may be exposed to blood or other body fluids shall be provided with emergency medical garments, emergency medical face protection devices, and emergency medical gloves that meet the applicable requirements of NFPA 1999, *Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations*."