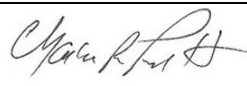
	Department of Public Safety	
	Standard Operating Guidelines	
	Subject:	Cimex Lectularius (Bed Bug) Notifications – Actions – Prevention
	Section:	Operations
	Guideline Number:	312
	Effective Date:	December 16, 2021
	Reviewed Date:	October 1, 2024
Signature of Approval:	Charles R. Pruitt Director of Public Safety	

PURPOSE

To establish procedures for member of Accomack County Department of Public Safety (ACDPS) when bed bugs are encountered on emergency scenes, within Accomack County facilities (volunteer Fire/EMS stations), and in apparatus.

SCOPE

This SOG shall apply to all Accomack County Department of Public Safety Fire Medics and Staff.

PHILOSOPHY

The proliferation of bed bugs in both commercial and residential settings has necessitated ACDPS to formulate this SOG concerning exposures. Citizens and members of ACDPS can come into contact with bed bugs from a variety of circumstances. As members of ACDPS we do not judge; we simply help those in need. These pests are extremely difficult to eradicate once an infestation has occurred. Therefore it is mandated that all ACDPS staff receive training on the identification, required notifications, and actions to be taken when these pests are encountered at emergency scenes and within Accomack County facilities and apparatus. This SOG will address the necessary steps to maintain “bed bug free” facilities and apparatus as well as the steps to be taken once an exposure has occurred.

PROCEDURE

1. Identification – On Scene Exposures Levels

A. On Scene – No Physical Exposure

1. No physical contact to patient and environment.
2. Immediate identification of the presence of bed bugs on patient or belongings.
3. Immediate containment (packaging) and quarantine of patient.
 - a. Patient will be placed in a sheet or blanket wrapped prior to being exposed to equipment and entering the ambulance. When wrapping a patient in blankets or sheets, wrapping should include the head but not compromising the patient ability to breath.
 - b. Patients will be directed to place his/her belonging in a trash bag prior to entering the ambulance.
 - c. Lay extra sheets or blankets on the floor of ambulance prior to loading the patient.
 - d. Notify ED of the presence of beg bugs on the patient and belongings.

NOTE: Containment (packaging) shall not preclude or interfere with the administration of medical care and/or monitoring.

B. On Scene-Minimal Physical Exposure-Delayed Identification

1. Minimal physical contact to patient and environment.
 - a. Patient is picked up outdoors and is packaged prior to being exposed to equipment and entering the ambulance.
 - b. Patient is picked up indoors and is packaged prior to being exposed to equipment and entering the ambulance.
 - c. If patient ambulates into the ambulance without being handled by the crew.
2. Delayed identification of the presence of bed bugs on patient or belongings.
3. Immediate containment (packaging) and quarantine of patient.
 - a. Patient will be placed in a sheet or blanket wrapped prior to being exposed to equipment and entering the ambulance. When wrapping a patient in blankets or sheets, wrapping should include head but not compromise the patient's breathing status.
 - b. Patient will be directed to place his/her belongings in trash bag.
 - c. Lay extra sheets or blankets on floor of ambulance prior to loading the patient.
 - d. Notify ED of the presence of bed bugs on patient and belongings.

NOTE: Containment (packaging) shall not preclude or interfere with the administration of medical care and/or monitoring.

C. Transport Complete-Delayed Notification and Confirmation of bed bugs

1. Confirmation of multiple bed bugs on patient or belongings after transport to ED.
 - a. Delayed notification of ambulance crew by ED staff based on their findings.
 - b. Delayed notification – 1 hour after the incident.
2. Physical contact and carrying of patient without the use of any precautions.
3. Prolonged exposure to patient's environment (treating at scene).
4. Patient quarantine precautions not in place during transport.

NOTE: Containment (packaging shall not preclude or interfere with the administration of medical care/or monitoring.

2. Notifications and Actions

A. Immediate Notifications

1. When any of the exposures listed above are encountered the ambulance AIC shall immediately notify the Battalion Chief/Captain on duty. This will allow for immediate precautions to be put in place to prevent infestations in Accomack County facilities.

B. Immediate Actions

1. ED staff should be notified (discreetly) that bed bugs were identified during the emergency call. This notification should be made prior to the patient entering the ED.
2. Minimize exposure by staying in the containment area designated by the ED staff.
3. Decontamination should start immediately while at the hospital. Inspect and wipe down all suspected areas of the ambulance with a designated disinfectant or 91% alcohol solution.
4. Place all contaminated linen in a biohazard bag and place at the designated area at the ED.

5. At the completion of the call, contact will be made with the Battalion Chief/Captain to place the unit out of service for further decontamination or personnel and equipment. The Battalion Chief/Captain will notify the volunteer fire station representative.
6. Once back at the station employees shall not enter the bunk room of the station or sit on any furniture.
7. Disinfecting of ambulance shall continue and include:
 - a. The thorough vacuuming of the inside of the unit to include all interior compartments.
 - b. All surfaces areas and cabinets shall be cleaned with a disinfectant or 91% alcohol solution.
 - c. All exposed EMS equipment (cardiac monitor, intubation kits, trauma bag) shall be cleaned.
8. As soon as unit decontamination is completed, employees shall doff their uniforms and place them in a dryer on the highest heat setting of 20 minutes. Once uniforms have completed the 20-minute drying cycle, they can then be laundered normally. Fire Medic PPE (turn out gear) will be cleaned at the Fire Training Center (PPE Washer/Dryer).
9. Personnel shall shower and change into a clean uniform.
10. It is the expectation that all employees with have an extra uniform available to allow changing into a clean uniform prior to going back in service.