



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: May 9, 2020

Issue/Incident: Daily COVID-19 Update 55

**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

**Chris Webber**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency Operations

**David Picone**  
Battalion Chief  
Health & Safety Officer

**Willy Melendez**  
Safety Officer  
San Diego Incident Management Team

**Brandon Green**  
Operations Manager, AMR

**George Duardo**  
Vice-President  
San Diego Firefighters Local 145

**Chris Vanos**  
Chief Steward  
Teamsters Local 911

**Anthony J. Sorci**  
President  
San Diego Association of Prehospital Professionals

### INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: 536
- Daily Staffing Level: Full Staffing
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: 3



### COVID-19 Incident Management Team

- The IMT will be transitioning the handling of COVID-19 back to the department over the next week. Support and updates for this incident will continue to be delivered. It is important to remember that this incident is not over, the risk continues to remain high, and everyone's vigilance will be critical moving forward.

### California is moving into Stage 2 in the Resilience Roadmap

- [Low-risk workplaces](#) can gradually open with adaptations.
- Updated San Diego County [Public Health Order](#) (effective May 9, 2020)
  - The latest changes address camping, recreational equipment rentals, and childcare facilities.
- SD County Guidelines developed following California's Pandemic Roadmap ([Stage 2](#)).
  - [San Diego Ready: Responsible COVID-19 Economic Reopening \(RECOVER\)](#)
  - Businesses need to complete the County's [Safe Reopening Plan](#), print, and post it at their entrance.
  - [Report essential workers not wearing a face covering](#).
- [County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- Updated: [Frequently Asked Questions for EMS Agencies and EMS Providers Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

### Department of Motor Vehicles: Select DMV Field Offices to Reopen to Public

The DMV will reopen select field offices across the state on Friday, May 8, 2020. Although the CA DMV will be keeping expiring commercial licenses, endorsements, and certificates valid through June 30<sup>th</sup>, we are advising you to keep your license valid, so you do not end up going over the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The DMV field offices that will be opening locally in the San Diego Region are:

- DMV Office San Diego, [3960 Normal Street, San Diego, CA 92103](#)
- Industry Business Center (IBC) Rancho San Diego, located at [1530 Hilton Head Rd., El Cajon, CA 92019](#). **This location only serves commercial drivers.**
- DMV Office San Marcos, [590 Rancheros Dr., San Marcos, CA 92069](#)



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department

## Health & Safety Office

# SAFETY MESSAGE

### Lessons Learned

- South bay districts (6, 29, 30 & 43) continue to see significant increases in COVID cases relative to the rest of San Diego County.
- Morning briefings are intended for all personnel. Important messaging may be lost when relaying pertinent information as well as stifle healthy discussion amongst the crew. Staying current on information provided will help ensure the safety of you and your crew. Don't allow the lack of communication to become another "lesson learned" for the fire service.
- Personal beliefs should NOT influence your decision when deciding which City or Department policy to follow. As a supervisor, your choices have a far-reaching impact on the health and safety of your crew and the public we serve.
- Continue to educate outside agencies/personnel on scene of any potential exposure risks due to the lack of personal protective equipment (i.e., Border Patrol, SDPD, MTS).

### PERSONNEL STATUS

	FIRE		LIFEGUARDS		NON-SWORN		AMR	
	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE
Number in Isolation (Symptomatic)	0	42	0	23	0	3	4	43
	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE
Number of DICO Confirmed Exposures (CDC Med/High)	0	99	0	24	0	0	0	59
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	0	38	0	16	0	2	0	14
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	0	42	0	23	0	3	0	0

**\*\*\*Route any questions, comments, or concerns through your normal chain of command.\*\*\***

"Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives"



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: May 10, 2020

Issue/Incident: Daily COVID-19 Update 56

**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

**Chris Webber**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency Operations

**David Picone**  
Battalion Chief  
Health & Safety Officer

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**Anthony J. Sorci**  
President  
San Diego Association of Prehospital Professionals

### INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: 495
- Daily Staffing Level: Full Staffing
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: 4



### COVID-19 Incident Management Team

- The IMT will be transitioning the handling of COVID-19 back to the department over the next week. Support and updates for this incident will continue to be delivered. It is important to remember that this incident is not over, the risk continues to remain high, and everyone's vigilance will be critical moving forward.
  - Future communications with Operations will be transitioning to a hybrid "first day back" format (i.e., Operations Briefings, document updates, safety messages).

### California is moving into Stage 2 in the Resilience Roadmap

- [Low-risk workplaces](#) can gradually open with adaptations.
- Updated San Diego County [Public Health Order](#) (effective May 9, 2020)
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  - Businesses need to complete the County's [Safe Reopening Plan](#), print, and post it at their entrance.
  - [Report essential workers not wearing a face covering](#).
- [County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- Updated: [Frequently Asked Questions for EMS Agencies and EMS Providers Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

### Updated Document: [COVID-19 Response and Decon Protocol 5.6.20](#) (new for B-Division)

#### COVID-19 Positive Screen:

- A positive screen is any patient with these symptoms or combination of symptoms:
  - Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Or at least **two** of these symptoms:
  - Fever, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, the new loss of taste or smell

#### Encounter vs. Exposure:

- Encounter: within 6' of a patient who screens positive for potential COVID-19
  - Full PPE (N100/N95), gown, gloves, and goggles) without a breach
  - Option to document on a Minor Injury Form
  - DICO contact is **NOT** required



## San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

# SAFETY MESSAGE

- Exposure: within 6' of a patient who screens positive for potential COVID-19
  - Missing any PPE (N100/N95, gown, gloves, or goggles) or a PPE breach.
  - Any aerosolized procedures including suctioning, CPAP, nebulized medications, bag-mask ventilation, advanced airway placement, chest compressions, as well as patients with significant coughing/sneezing.
  - Extensive body contact with a patient.
  - When the scene stabilizes, contact DICO.
  - Complete Communicable Disease Exposure Report. Complete on scene (legible, include FS#), enter names of exposed crew members, take a photograph of form and email to DICO call taker who contacted you, send the form to hospital with the patient (if not possible, ensure form is delivered to the hospital ASAP).

### **Department of Motor Vehicles:** [Select DMV Field Offices to Reopen to Public](#)

The DMV will reopen select field offices across the state on Friday, May 8, 2020. Although the CA DMV will be keeping expiring commercial licenses, endorsements, and certificates valid through June 30<sup>th</sup>, we are advising you to keep your license valid, so you do not end up going over the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. The DMV field offices that will be opening locally in the San Diego Region are:

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### **Lessons Learned**

- It is preferable to send the Communicable Disease Exposure Reports with the ambulance crew to the hospital. If you are unable to do this (i.e., moderate/acute status patient with short scene time), work through your chain of command to get the original form to the hospital and attached to the patient ASAP.
- By following the COVID-19 Response & Decon Protocol and assuming all patients, regardless of dispatch complaint, may have COVID-19, you will ensure best practices are followed and minimize exposure risks to you and your crew members.
- South bay districts (6, 29, 30 & 43) continue to see significant increases in COVID cases relative to the rest of San Diego County. Battalion 6's District makes up approximately 18 percent of all confirmed cases countywide [City of San Diego Dashboard](#).
- Morning briefings are intended for all personnel. Important messaging may be lost when relaying pertinent information as well as stifle healthy discussion amongst the crew. Staying current on information provided will help ensure the safety of you and your crew. Don't allow the lack of communication to become another "lesson learned" for the fire service.
- Personal beliefs should NOT influence your decision when deciding which City or Department policy to follow. As a supervisor, your choices have a far-reaching impact on the health and safety of your crew and the public we serve.



# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

- Continue to educate outside agencies/personnel on scene of any potential exposure risks due to the lack of personal protective equipment (i.e., Border Patrol, SDPD, MTS).
- Face shields or goggles continue to be the preferred level of eye protection.
- Depending on the status of a patient, your first three actions should include 1. Place a mask on the patient; 2. Take a temperature; and 3. Ask COVID related questioning.
  - If needed, slow down the tempo of your call (i.e., back out and don the appropriate PPE).

### PERSONNEL STATUS

	FIRE		LIFEGUARDS		NON-SWORN		AMR	
	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE
Number in Isolation (Symptomatic)	0	42	0	23	0	3	4	43
	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE
Number of DICO Confirmed Exposures (CDC Med/High)	2	101	0	24	0	0	0	59
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	0	38	0	16	0	2	0	14
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	0	42	0	23	0	3	0	0

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"Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives"





# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: May 8, 2020

Issue/Incident: Daily COVID-19 Update 54

**Colin Stowell**  
Fire Chief

**Chris Webber**  
Assistant Chief  
Emergency Operations

**David Picone**  
Battalion Chief  
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**Chris Vanos**  
Chief Steward  
Teamsters Local 911

**Anthony J. Sorci**  
President  
San Diego Association of Prehospital Professionals

### INCIDENT STATISTICS:

- Total Incidents, Last 24 Hours: 532
- Daily Staffing Level: Full Staffing
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: 6



### COVID-19 Incident Management Team

- The IMT will be transitioning the handling of COVID-19 back to the department over the next week. Support and updates for this incident will continue to be delivered. It is important to remember that this incident is not over, the risk continues to remain high, and everyone's vigilance will be critical moving forward.

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### Updated Document: COVID-19 Response and Decon Protocol 5.6.20

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# San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

## SAFETY MESSAGE

- Exposure: within 6' of a patient who screens positive for potential COVID-19
  - Missing any PPE (N100/N95, gown, gloves, or goggles) or a PPE breach.
  - Any aerosolized procedures including suctioning, CPAP, nebulized medications, bag-mask ventilation, advanced airway placement, chest compressions, as well as patients with significant coughing/sneezing.
  - Extensive body contact with a patient.
  - When the scene stabilizes, contact DICO.
  - Complete Communicable Disease Exposure Report. Complete on scene (legible, include FS#), enter names of exposed crew members, take a photograph of form and email to DICO call taker who contacted you, send the form to hospital with the patient (if not possible, ensure form is delivered to the hospital ASAP).

### Lessons Learned

- If a company officer believes an exposure occurred on a patient who was NOT transported to a hospital (i.e., AMA, 11-44), a Communicable Disease Exposure Report can still be submitted to DICO. The County does not collect Communicable Disease Exposure Report forms for patients who are not transported to a hospital.
- Continue to educate outside agencies/personnel on scene of any potential exposure risks due to the lack of personal protective equipment.
- Recognizing that having bystanders on the scene will make it challenging for delays in starting patient care when donning PPE, consider rotating crew members out to don gowns when appropriate.
- Face shields or goggles continue to be the preferred level of eye protection.
- Depending on the status of a patient, your first three actions should include 1. Place a mask on the patient; 2. Take a temperature; and 3. Ask COVID related questioning.
  - If needed, slow down the tempo of your call (i.e., back out and don the appropriate PPE).

### PERSONNEL STATUS

	FIRE		LIFEGUARDS		NON-SWORN		AMR	
	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE	CURR.	TO DATE
Number Currently in Isolation (Symptomatic)	1	42	1	23	0	3	5	42
	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE	PAST 24 HRS	TO DATE
Number of DICO Confirmed Exposures (CDC Med/High)	0	99	0	24	0	0	2	59
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	0	38	0	16	0	2	0	14
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	0	42	0	23	0	3	0	0

**\*\*\*Route any questions, comments, or concerns through your normal chain of command.\*\*\***

"Promoting Safe and Healthy Lives"



COVID-19 Update  
5/8/2020

**Supervisors:**

Michael Benacchio (MS71)  
Richard Goulet (MS72)

**Number of Cases (Global)**  
**3,910,738**

**Number of Cases (US)**  
**1,273,887**

**Number of Cases (CA):**  
**62,547**

**Number of Cases (San Diego):**  
**4,429**

**Helpful Links:**

[GMR Vehicle Decon Policy](#)

[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[On Duty Temperature Checks](#)

[GMR Coronavirus](#)

[CA Public Health COVID-19](#)

[Focus Psychiatric Services](#)

[CDC COVID-19](#)

[Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Map](#)

[SD Co COVID19 Dashboard](#)

[GMR COVID Medical  
Assessment Tool \(MAST\)](#)

SDFD Operational COVID Docs:



**DO NOT COME TO WORK IF YOU HAVE COVID SYMPTOMS**

- If symptomatic, please call off to a supervisor, we do not wish to infect patients, co-workers or their families
- \*updated\* COVID-19 symptoms per CDC: Cough or SOB, OR 2+ of fever, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste/smell

**Supplies:**

- PPE kits no longer being made, pieces still available in bin 8
- Small gloves have new packaging, all sizes will change soon
- Keep Pro-Tek RTU bottle if empty, can refill bottle at 42A
- Plastic face shields available at 42A, 2 per ambulance to be distributed and shared, not issued to individual employees

**Personal Protective Equipment Guideline:**

- Facial coverings are to be used for duration of your shift
- Surgical mask, gloves and goggles/shield required on all calls
  - Choice of using either goggles or plastic facial shield is up to each individual provider
  - Surgical masks on all EMS patients as tolerated
  - Upgrade to N95 and gown if COVID suspected

**N95/N100 FFR Collection for Reuse:**

- Write your name on front bottom of FFR before use. This is to ensure you get your mask back after decontamination
- Reuse FFR as normal, per current practice
  - After high-risk procedure, instead of discarding mask, place FFR mask in sandwich size bag, then large bag
- When bag is full, drop off at 42A, and get a new bag and clip
- Keep bag in outside compartment with trauma bag

**General:**

- Remember to do your twice daily on-duty temperature checks, link is on your iPad and checks are mandatory
- Dispatch has implemented a Problem/Nature "Suspected COVID 19", call may have additional notes to the complaint
  - May triage out as another complaint, this does NOT mean the call is not COVID 19 related, be aware!
- Definition of COVID-19 exposure changed, now includes:
  - Any PPE breach, or missing any PPE on COVID pt
  - Any aerosolizing procedure, even with proper PPE
  - Extensive body contact with patient
- May is officially Mental Health Awareness Month
  - Focus website link added on left bar, more in email





COVID-19 Update  
5/9/2020

**Supervisors:**

Robert Spangler (MS71)  
John McCormack (MS72)

**Number of Cases (Global)**  
**3,991,010**

**Number of Cases (US)**  
**1,297,549**

**Number of Cases (CA):**  
**64,589**

**Number of Cases (San Diego):**  
**4,662**

**Helpful Links:**

[GMR Vehicle Decon Policy](#)

[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[On Duty Temperature Checks](#)

[GMR Coronavirus](#)

[CA Public Health COVID-19](#)

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COVID-19 Update  
5/10/2020

**Supervisors:**

Michael Benacchio (MS71)  
Terry Brannam (MS72)

**Number of Cases (Global)**  
**4,088,393**

**Number of Cases (US)**  
**1,326,138**

**Number of Cases (CA):**  
**67,097**

**Number of Cases (San Diego):**  
**4,776**

**Helpful Links:**

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[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[On Duty Temperature Checks](#)

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- When bag is full, drop off at 42A, and get a new bag and clip
- Keep bag in outside compartment with trauma bag

**General:**

- Remember to do your twice daily on-duty temperature checks, link is on your iPad and checks are mandatory
- Select DMV Offices have been reopened
  - Normal St, San Marcos and Commercial Offices
  - Expired/Expiring licenses still valid through 6/30
  - Please ensure you maintain a valid license
- Definition of COVID-19 exposure changed, now includes:
  - Any PPE breach, or missing any PPE on COVID pt
  - Any aerosolizing procedure, even with proper PPE
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