



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Health & Safety Office

SAFETY MESSAGE

Div/Sec: All Personnel

Date: May 15, 2020

Issue/Incident: COVID-19 Update 57

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: 462
- Daily Staffing Level: Full Staffing
- COVID-19 DICO Responses, Last 24 Hours: 4



COVID-19 Incident Management Team transition to COVID-19 Division

- While this pandemic is not over, it is moving into a new phase. Organizationally we will be transitioning the incident management team (IMT) back to the department and will be establishing a COVID-19 Division effective Saturday, March 16. The COVID-19 Division will continue operations at 9601 Ridgehaven Court, Monday through Friday, and remote on weekends.
- Questions, comments, or concerns can be addressed via SDFDCovid19@sanidiego.gov (effective 5/18/2020).

United States Airforce Thunderbirds Flyover: Salute to California COVID-19 Responders

- Flyover in San Diego will start at noon and last approximately 15 minutes on May 15th.

Updated Documents

- [COVID-19 Response and Decon Protocol 05.15.2020](#)
 - Addition of "face shield, and/or goggles" language for minimum PPE.
 - Exposure vs. Encounter
 - DICO contact is **not** required for encounters.
 - DICO contact is **required** for all exposures once the scene stabilizes.
- [DICO Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - "Positive screen for a potential COVID-19" patient defined.
 - Encounter vs. Exposure

The following [reservoirs and lakes](#) will RE-OPEN on the following dates during regular business hours for walking, jogging, cycling, fishing, and boating:

- Miramar on Friday, May 15
- Murray on Friday, May 15
- Lower Otay on Saturday, May 16
- Parking lot capacity reduced by 50%.

City of San Diego [COVID-19 Positive Cases by Zip Code Dashboard](#)

- South bay continues to see higher levels of positive cases.
- [County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



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Cruise Ship Update

- Disney Wonder
 - 737 crew remain on board, 183 active COVID cases on board, returns to cruise ship terminal on May 15th.
- Celebrity Millennium
 - 542 crew members remain on board, enroute to San Diego (ETA 5/16/20)
- Celebrity Eclipse
 - 980 people on board, enroute to San Diego (ETA 5/16/20)

[Frequently Asked Questions for EMS Agencies/Providers Regarding the COVID-19](#)

[Wildland Fire Response Plan COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

- Document assigned in Target Solutions for your reference

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

- [FAQs for Wildland Firefighters](#)
- [Cruise Ship Crew Member Disembarkations](#)
- [Using Personal Protective Equipment](#)
- [How COVID Can Spread in a Community](#)

Lessons Learned

- After a suspected COVID-19 encounter, ensure a thorough decon is completed on scene and upon returning to the station.
- Anticipate having to back out of a call to ensure the proper PPE is donned. As information comes into ECDC and relayed to companies, crews may already be engaged with patient care.
- All crew members should check each other before engaging in the incident.
- Do NOT allow your “comfort level” to let you make decisions. Be guided by Department guidelines, policies, and procedures. 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.
- When working with a crew that you are not familiar with, always state your expectations early and establish a game plan for addressing COVID related incidents (i.e., roles of crew members).
- With varying levels of experience in the workforce and interactions with different agencies, continue to taking opportunities on calls to educate each other on best practices, guidelines, or protocols.
- Anticipated treatment should warrant the appropriate level of PPE (i.e., aerosolized generating procedures).
- If PPE needs to be donned after patient engagement, when appropriate, rotate crew members out. If there is going to be a prolonged exposure (i.e., crew member riding to the hospital), ensure the proper PPE is worn.
- Do not solely rely on the MDC when completing your scene survey (i.e., identifying COVID addresses).



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- 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.
 - 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)	4	47	0	23	0	3	0	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	105	0	24	0	0	0	62
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Positive (+)	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0
Number of COVID-19 Laboratory Confirmed Negative (-)	3	44	0	16	0	2	0	15
Number of Presumptive COVID-19 Diagnosis	0	47	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
5/16/2020

Supervisors:

John McCormack (MS71)
Carlos Valdez (MS72)

Number of Cases (Global)
4,596,304

Number of Cases (US)
1,454,504

Number of Cases (CA):
77,006

Number of Cases (San Diego):
5,523

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

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
 - Scout always wears ALL PPE until COVID determined
 - Surgical masks on all EMS patients as tolerated
 - If COVID-19 is suspected, upgrade to N95 and gown

Supplies:

- Gibeck Humid Vent filter no longer for use with nebulizer
 - Can still use with BVM without nebulizer procedure
 - See attached for pictures and clarification
 - Bact-Trap filters still approved for nebulizer use
- 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, now available for all units

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 place mask in bag
- When bag is full, drop off at 42A, and get a new bag and clip

General:

- Twice daily on-duty temperature checks are mandatory, link is on the left bar and also on your iPad
- 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
- StreetEMS now requires PPE level to be documented for all providers, drop-downs are located in the "3 dots" button
- Nothing may be attached or tied to gurney hooks, handle
 - This is a safety hazard, may cause gurney to not secure properly and potentially prevent the magnetic safety from working to disable to raise/lower when secured to the hooks and handle



COVID-19 Update
5/15/2020

Supervisors:

Michael Benacchio (MS71)
Carlos Valdez (MS72)

Number of Cases (Global)
4,508,435

Number of Cases (US)
1,429,990

Number of Cases (CA):
75,042

Number of Cases (San Diego):
5,391

Helpful Links:

[GMR Vehicle Decon Policy](#)

[GMR Fogger Decon Video](#)

[On Duty Temperature Checks](#)

[GMR Coronavirus](#)

[CA Public Health COVID-19](#)

[Focus Psychiatric Services](#)

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 - Scout always wears ALL PPE until COVID determined
 - Choice of using either goggles or plastic facial shield is up to each individual provider
 - Surgical masks on all EMS patients as tolerated
 - If COVID suspected, upgrade to N95 and gown
- Collaborate with engine on PPE level, call supervisor with questions after call if clarification needed
 - Concerns about PPE level on some calls have arisen

Supplies:

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 - Can still use with BVM without nebulizer procedure
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COVID-19 Update
5/14/2020

Supervisors:

Michael Benacchio (MS71)
Carlos Valdez (MS72)

Number of Cases (Global)
4,408,616

Number of Cases (US)
1,405,961

Number of Cases (CA):
73,173

Number of Cases (San Diego):
5,278

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](#)

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SDFD Operational COVID Docs:



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 - Choice of using either goggles or plastic facial shield is up to each individual provider
 - Surgical masks on all EMS patients as tolerated
 - If COVID suspected , upgrade to N95 and gown
- Collaborate with engine on PPE level, call supervisor with questions after call if clarification needed
 - Concerns about PPE level on some calls have arisen

Supplies:

- 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, now available for all units

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 place mask in bag
- When bag is full, drop off at 42A, and get a new bag and clip

General:

- Twice daily on-duty temperature checks are mandatory, link is on the left bar and also on your iPad
- 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
 - Extensive body contact with patient
- StreetEMS now requires PPE level to be documented for all providers, drop-downs are located in the "3 dots" button



COVID-19 Update
5/12/2020

Supervisors:

Michael Benacchio (MS71)
Carlos Valdez (MS72)

Number of Cases (Global)
4,233,504

Number of Cases (US)
1,358,000

Number of Cases (CA):
69,418

Number of Cases (San Diego):
5,065

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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- *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
- 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
 - Extensive body contact with patient
- May is officially Mental Health Awareness Month
 - Focus website link added on left bar, more in email