

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.419	<b>Effective Date:</b>	DRAFT
<b>Title:</b>	Bed Bug Prevention Program	<b># of pages:</b>	3
<b>Category:</b>	Emergency Medical Response	<b>Classification:</b>	Yellow

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a system and process to minimize the potential exposure and spread of bed bugs.
2. **POLICY:** A bed bug infestation, while a nuisance, is not a biohazard and needs to be treated similar to a hazardous materials response. To reduce the chances of a bed bug infestation within the fire department we need to limit exposure of responders, conduct a complete “decontamination” of all people, and equipment prior to being loaded into the ambulance and reduce/eliminate any cross contamination of responders, equipment, apparatus, and stations. Ultimately this is still a medical call and the patient’s wellbeing and care takes priority at all times over dealing with the infested patient.

### **Responsibilities**

- EMS Coordinator: Ensure all SPFD personnel have access to the associated PPE and cleaning materials
- Line Officers/Officer Candidates: Ensure company compliance with this SOG. Contact the Duty Chief when a facility infestation has been identified
- All Personnel: It is the responsibility of all personnel to know and follow this SOG

### **3. PROCEDURES:**

#### **Arrival at Scene with a Known Infestation:**

- a. All personnel entering will don protective boot covers prior to entry
- b. Tyvek suits may be worn if desired
- c. Turnout gear is **NOT** to be worn at known infestation locations
- d. Avoid setting EMS bags and other equipment down on surfaces, if not possible place on hard surface (table)
- e. If possible, remove patient's clothing & dress them in a scrubs
- f. Wrap patient in a sheet or blanket
- g. Place any patient belongings, being transported, in a sealed plastic trash bag
- h. Limit exposure time & consider performing assessment in ambulance, if patient status permits
- i. For immediate life threat to the patient, utilize a reasonable risk management assessment

#### **Arrival at Scene with an Unknown Infestation:**

- a. Once determined, remove as many non-essential personnel and equipment as possible and be sure to decontaminate once outside using STERI-FAB spray
- b. If not on assigned, an Engine Company will be requested to assist with decontamination

- c. Avoid setting EMS bags down on surfaces, if not possible place on hard surface (table)
- d. If possible, remove patient's clothing & dress them in a scrubs
- e. Wrap patient in a sheet or blanket
- f. Place any patient belongings, being transported, in a sealed plastic trash bag
- g. Limit exposure time & consider performing assessment in ambulance, if patient status permits
- h. For immediate life threat to the patient, utilize a reasonable risk management assessment
- i. Officer or OC will contact Duty Chief, who will make notifications below

**Patient Transport:**

- a. Remove booties and spray your boots with STERI-FAB spray prior to entering ambulance
- b. Notify the ED staff prior to arrival
- c. Consider utilizing Haz-Mat Decon entry point

**Uniform Decontamination:**

- a. Spray boots with STERI-FAB spray
- b. Place uniforms into the dryer for 10-20 minutes
- c. Wash & dry your uniform garments as normal
- d. Be sure to clean out dryer lint traps; discard in sealed trash bag & dispose directly into outside dumpster

**Turnout Gear Decontamination:**

- a. Turnout gear should NEVER be worn in known bed bug locations.
- b. If Turnout gear is worn to an unknown bed bug location and needs to be decontaminated
  - a. Bag gear and seal prior to returning to apparatus
  - b. When at station spot clean turnout gear with warm water and a soft bristle brush
  - c. Wash & dry your turnout garments as normal
  - d. **DO NOT** place in the dryer as this will decrease the fire resistant properties of the turnout gear
- c. Thoroughly inspect the turnout gear prior to placing back into service

**EMS Equipment Decontamination:**

- a. Inspect equipment for visible bed bugs, spray with STERI-FAB
- b. If numerous bed bugs are found bag and seal the equipment and return to station
- c. When at station remove and inspect equipment. Place any affected EMS bags into the dryer for 10-20 minutes. Spray items that cannot go in dryer with STERI-FAB
- d. Be sure to clean out dryer lint traps; discard in sealed trash bag & dispose directly into outside dumpster
- e. Return the EMS bag to service

**Ambulance Decontamination:**

- a. Inspect for evidence of bed bugs

- b. Spray all visible evidence with STERI-FAB (ensure appropriate ventilation)
- c. Once the surface is dry, vacuum all visible evidence; discard in sealed trash bag & dispose directly into outside dumpster
- d. Finish by wiping affected areas with medical disinfectant cleaner
- e. Thoroughly inspect the ambulance prior to placing back into service

**Fire Station Decontamination:**

- a. The Office/OC shall notify the Duty Chief immediately if there is evidence of a bed bug infestation on the interior of a fire station
- b. The Duty Chief will determine if apparatus and personnel will be relocated from the effected fire station to unaffected fire stations
- c. The personnel from the effected fire station will thoroughly perform all necessary decontamination and cleaning procedures to prevent cross contamination
- d. The Duty Chief will notify the Deputy Chief of EMS of the infestation as soon as practical. An approved third party professional extermination company may be contacted to mitigate the infestation
- e. If needed, the Duty Chief will send out a department-wide text/page to notify all personnel that the station is closed due to infestation. A follow up text/page will be sent to all personnel once the station has been reopened

**Dispatch Flag Notification:**

- a. Notify the Duty Chief of the incident
- b. Dispatch will be advised to flag the address for future response with an "infestation alert"
- c. The on duty Police supervisor and City Health Officer will also be notified via email

4. REFERENCES:

- Fairborn Fire Department SOG 2-3-10

By Order Of:

*James P Wilson*

James P. Wilson  
Fire Chief