

	BEDFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & RESCUE Standard Operating Guideline	
	Discipline: Operations	DATE September 15, 2023
	Reference Number: F/R-13	
	APPROVED BY: Chief Janet Blankenship	
	SUBJECT: Bed Bugs & Decontamination	

Purpose:

To establish a uniform guideline for managing situations where personnel and equipment have been exposed to bed bugs. The goals are to minimize the exposure and eliminate the hazard.

Scope:

This SOG applies to all BCoFR personnel.

Procedure:

Preventing Bed Bug Infestations

- Response Precautions**
1. Identify premise information while enroute.
 2. Have one responder stay on alert for signs of bed bugs: actual living or dead bugs, fecal/blood spots, red welts/bite marks on patient, bed bug eggs or bug skin casts.

- On discovery**
1. Immediately don PPE- gown/sleeves, shoe covers, gloves.
 2. Limit the number of personnel inside the residence to essential-only.
 3. Limit contact of medical equipment on soft services, like beds and sofas.

Transporting your Patient

1. Have patient remove as much extra clothing as possible, while maintaining the patient's dignity.
2. Wrap the patient in a cocoon of bed sheets.
3. Do not carry additional riders from the residence, unless a minor or second patient.
4. Refrain from carrying any personal belongings with the patient.
5. Notify County-10 for APS/CPS referral and to update any premise data.
6. Notify the ER to prepare for arrival of the patient.
7. Perform self-inspections when possible without taking away from patient care. Place any found bugs in a ziploc bag for identification. (cuffs, seams, shoes, buttons)
8. At all times, personnel should be respectful of patient privacy and dignity. We should not create unnecessary embarrassment for the patient.

Document

1. Document any referral information in the patient's PCR
2. Fill out a "Bed Bug Exposure Form" and submit to shift Lieutenant.
3. Notify any other agencies that came in contact with the patient or home.

Decontamination of Personnel and Equipment

1. Units shall be placed out of service for decontamination & remain outdoors in a well-ventilated space.
2. Do not enter station living quarters (bedroom, kitchen, locker areas, tv rooms) if avoidable until uniform is removed and a shower is taken. Transport uniforms from bathroom to laundry in a closed plastic bag.
3. Place uniforms directly in a clothes dryer on high heat for at least 20 minutes. Then wash and repeat drying. Thoroughly wipe boots with 91% alcohol.
4. Use 91% alcohol or other "bed bug specific" solution to spray & wipe all equipment and medic unit interior. Pay close attention to the stretcher pad and seams, equipment bags, and seating areas. *Do NOT use 91% alcohol in a fogger*
5. Place bed linens in a biohazard bag for proper disposal.
6. In any situations where bed bugs are noticed in a station, the Lieutenant is to be notified and Administration will request an exterminator.

Diligence and Prevention

1. Wash mattress covers on beds and personal bed linens once a month..
2. Clean and vacuum living areas regularly.
3. If you must store items near or under beds, ensure they are in plastic bins with tight fitting lids.
4. Avoid bringing secondhand furniture into stations.
5. Never take suspected contaminated uniforms home to wash.