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Hazard Assessment – Field Employees

This Hazard Assessment covers Field Employees to include but not limited to:

Paramedics, EMTs, Operations Supervisors, Operations Managers, and those with dual roles in office and field

HAZARD	EXPOSURE EFFECTS	MITIGATION	PPE SUGGESTED
1. Chemical Hazards			
Alcohol hand sanitizers	May cause skin dryness. Product is flammable	Appropriate storage of product (away from ignition sources and incompatible products). Provision of hand cream to soothe hand dryness.	None
Low level disinfectants	Most are eye, skin, and respiratory irritants, particularly when concentrated. Some products may produce sensitization Toxic effects depending on nature of chemical, may react with other products to create hazardous products.	Substitution with less harmful product. Properly designed and maintained ventilation systems. Automatic diluting machines. Closed systems. Practice to purchase products in ready to use concentrations to minimize handling. Safe work procedures. WHMIS program and maintenance of MSDS's. Worker education. Accommodation for sensitized workers or those with health issues.	Gloves, eye protection, and appropriate clothing.
Personal care products, scents, and fragrances.	May cause a variety of mild to severe symptoms. Allergic, asthmatic, and sensitive workers may experience reactions.	Elimination of scented products. Substitution with less harmful products. Properly designed and maintained ventilation systems in posts and Medic structures. Development, implementation and enforcement of scent free policies. Signage in work areas where affected workers work. Worker education.	N-95 mask usage for workers that are sensitive or that have respiratory issues when scents are unavoidable.
Second hand smoke	Lung cancer and other cancers. Associated with heart disease, respiratory irritation,	Elimination of smoking within and around facilities. Properly designed and maintained ventilation systems. Isolation of areas where smoking is permitted with dedicated	Respirator or N-95 mask when secondhand smoke is unavoidable. Attempt to limit exposure.



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	<p>aggravation of allergies and other pre-existing conditions. Impacts developing fetus.</p>	<p>ventilation systems. Substitution with smoking cessation aids. Development, implementation, and enforcement of no smoking policies related to worker exposure in homes. Substitution with smoking cessation programs. Collection of patient smoking information on EPCR's in home or community settings. Worker education. Good housekeeping. Provision of services in an alternate location if clients are uncooperative with no smoking policies.</p>	
<p>Smoke from other sources</p>	<p>Lung cancer and other cancers. Associated with heart disease, respiratory irritation, aggravation of allergies and other pre-existing conditions. Impacts developing fetus. Other unknown effects when smoke from multiple burning substances are encountered</p>	<p>Avoidance when possible of smoke or the products of incomplete burning is present. Development of policies regarding the operation around scenes and patient care areas that is located near the site of structure, vehicle, woodland, or chemical fires. Restrict operations in areas that require the use of any SCBA type respirator.</p>	<p>Proper staging distances. Use of SCBA if provided by Medic. Eye protection. Medic turnout gear.</p>



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<p>Hazmat Chemical exposure</p>	<p>Numerous health risks based on the type, quantity, and concentration of hazardous materials. May affect respiratory, circulatory, or Integumentary systems depending on areas exposed.</p>	<p>Avoidance when possible. Staging in a safe location upwind and uphill from the hazmat area. Communication and coordination with Fire department Hazmat teams. Ensure patients are properly decontaminated by trained personnel prior to engaging in patient care activities. Implementation of policies regarding Medic personnel's role in a hazmat situation. Pre-planning of hazmat situation patient care activities, to include coordination with fire department leadership and combined training exercises. Safe work practices. Worker training.</p>	<p>Proper staging distances. Use of chemical protection suits and chemical respirators provided by Medic. Eye protection. Gloves. Medic turnout gear. Appropriate footwear.</p>
<p>Airborne pathogens</p>	<p>Numerous respiratory effects as well as the potential for contraction of infectious disease. To include viruses, bacteria, or mold type spores.</p>	<p>Use of N-95 type respirators. Avoidance when possible. Extrication of the patient from areas with poor ventilation or high potential for contained airborne pathogens and mold. Implementation of policies and procedures governing the use of proper PPE and operations in and around areas with suspected airborne pathogens. Safe work practices. Employee education. Communication with the county health department and hospitals for alerts to possible worker exposure and follow up's for workers with known exposures to airborne pathogens.</p>	<p>N-95 respirator. Eye protection. Gloves.</p>



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<p>Blood borne pathogens</p>	<p>Potential for infectious disease spread which can affect many different body systems depending on the type of disease contracted.</p>	<p>Provision of PPE which restricts the exposure of the worker to blood borne pathogens. Limit exposure to open sharps and proper disposal of sharps in safe containers.          Purchasing practices which limit the need for exposed sharps to prepare medications for delivery i.e. prefilled medication syringes. Safe work practices. Worker education in proper use of PPE around exposed blood. Worker education in proper blood and bodily fluid clean-up. Good housekeeping practices.          Development, implementation, and enforcement of PPE use policies. Develop and implement an infection disease reporting system with the hospitals and county health department for exposed workers.</p>	<p>Gloves, face mask, eye protection, gowns, adequate clothing, turnout gear, and proper footwear.</p>
<p>Fossil fuels</p>	<p>Fossil fuels are skin, eye, and respiratory irritants. They have also been proven to cause cancers in lab animals from prolonged exposure. Fossil fuels are also flammable when in contact with an ignition source.</p>	<p>Provide PPE at fueling stations for use when refueling agency vehicles. Keep all ignition sources away from fueling stations and fuel storage areas. Place spill containment equipment and cleanup materials near fueling stations and fuel storage areas. Provide adequate ventilation near vehicle exhaust to prevent the buildup of products of exhaust. Worker training in proper vehicle refueling and spill containment and cleanup. Develop, implement, and enforce safe vehicle fueling and fuel storage policies and procedures. Regular maintenance of fuel pumps and ventilation systems for exhaust</p>	<p>Gloves. Gown or other protective clothing. Eye protection. Adequate footwear. Respirator.</p>



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		ventilation. Installation and maintenance of fire control systems at the fueling station, inside buildings where vehicles are stored and on vehicles.	
2. Physical Hazards and Controls			
Risk of falling objects	Potential for soft tissue and orthopedic injuries from objects falling from height.	Proper storage of objects on elevated surfaces. Use of guards on shelves to prevent objects from falling. Situational awareness when around objects stored at elevated heights. Use of head protection when operating in or near construction sites, industrial areas, warehouses, unstable structures, or vehicle extrication.	Head protection.



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<p>Falling hazards associated with slips, trips, and falls.</p>	<p>Slips, trips, and falls pose a risk of bodily harm to include muscular and orthopedic injuries.</p>	<p>Install slip resistant flooring. Slip resistant strips in the showers and on outdoor stairs, i.e. the metal stairs leading to the training room. Design stairwells according to accepted safety standards. Ensure adequate lighting. Provide slip resistant foot wear. Slip resistant coatings on ambulance surfaces susceptible to getting wet or dirty. Perform regular maintenance on flooring, stairwells, hallways, handrails, etc. Worker education. Implement a spill prevention program that includes prompt spill cleanup, use of warning signs, etc. Maintain good housekeeping practices and minimize clutter and tripping hazards. Discourage the storage of materials in hallways or near doors. Purchasing standards for anti-slip mats that resist "wrinkling" and turning over. Worker education and policies for approved climbing devices. Policies put in place regarding safe footwear, i.e. no high heel type footwear, or require business type shoes with antiskid surfaces on the soles.</p>	<p>Proper footwear with slip resistant soles.</p>
<p>Cuts from sharp instruments including scissors, bow cutters, needles, broken glass, sharp metal surfaces, knives, and other misc. sharp objects.</p>	<p>Sharp instruments pose the risk of cuts and scrapes as well as blood borne pathogen exposure to other workers.</p>	<p>Avoid the use of sharps when not required. Proper storage of sharps. Worker education. Safe work procedures. Keep all sharps properly contained in the simulator area and restrict non-essential employees from access to the simulator. Proper storage of sharps on the ambulances. Practice purchasing of medications that</p>	<p>Gloves. Eye protection. Use of turnout gear in areas with sharp edges. Proper footwear. Sharps containers. Use of sharps traps.</p>



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		<p>are in prefilled syringes to limit the need for "drawing up" medications. Provide sharps traps with the IO needles. Purchase fill needles with attached needle guards.</p>	
<p>Electrical hazards arising from use of electrical cords, appliances, damaged power lines, and other misc. sources of electricity.</p>	<p>This poses a risk of electric shock, falls, and fire.</p>	<p>Ground fault circuit interrupters when used close to water sources. Secure loose electrical cords out of the path of travel. Communication between field crews with CMED and fire departments to potential electrical hazards on scenes.</p> <p>Safe work procedure's that include use of electrical cords, power bars and appliances that include facility approval requirements. Worker training. Ensure that drop cords and extension cords are unplugged after use. Ensure that power strips and wall outlets are not overloaded. Worker training on safe work practices around damaged electrical wires and appliances.</p>	<p>Avoidance when possible. Proper foot wear. Eye protection.</p>
<p>Thermal Hazards</p>	<p>Poses the risk of sustaining burns.</p>	<p>Provide approved fire extinguishers in accessible areas at Medic used structures and on ambulance units. Keep vehicles in good working order. Maintenance program for all shore lines and electrical appliances.</p> <p>Safe work practices. Worker training for fire extinguisher use. Regular fire drills and fire prevention training. Develop, implement and enforce fire safety training and fire ground</p>	<p>Eye Protection. Proper footwear. Medic provided turnout gear.</p>



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		<p>operation policies.</p> <p>Communication between the fire department and medic leadership to develop policies for medic staff operations around fire related operations.</p> <p>Provide fire extinguisher training.</p>	
Environmental hazards	<p>These pose the risk of heat or cold related injuries. As well as other types of "exposure" illnesses or injuries.</p>	<p>Provide adequate clothing for varying temperatures depending on the time of year.</p> <p>Make water easily accessible to crews working in hot environments. Properly maintain climate control units in buildings and in agency vehicles.</p> <p>Develop, implement, and enforce policies designed to protect workers from environmentally related illness or injury. Rehab policies for prolonged outdoor operations.</p> <p>Safe work practices. Worker training for recognizing heat or cold related illness.</p>	<p>Proper clothing for working in hot or cold environments. Proper footwear.</p>
Water hazards	<p>Potential for drowning or hypothermia</p>	<p>Provide personal flotation devices at water related incidents.</p> <p>Safe work practices. Worker training in water rescue and self-water rescue. Develop, implement, and enforce water related operations policies.</p>	<p>PFD, Proper footwear.</p>



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Hazards related to Tactical operations	Potential for penetrating, explosion, burn, or vesicant exposure related injuries.	Provision of appropriate PPE for tactical medicine operations. Safe work practices. Worker training for workers selected to participate in SWAT type tactical operations. Development, implementation, and enforcement of policies regarding tactical type operations for non-tactical units. Close communication and coordination with Police units and tactical Medic units for pre-planning and field operations.	Tactical SWAT PPE. Eye protection. Respirator. Gloves. Proper footwear.
Violent patients or citizens	Potential for physical harm	Adequate locking devices on buildings and agency vehicles to prevent entry. Restraint devices in easily accessible areas. Safe work practices. Worker training in how to recognize and deescalate violent situations. Personal protection training. Patient restraint training. Develop, implement, and enforce proper staging policies and protocols for Medic field crews. Implementation and use of panic alarms and set procedure's for requesting immediate help. Communication and coordination with police departments for dual response to potentially violent situations.	Gloves. Eye protection. Medic provided turnout gear. Proper foot wear.



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<p>Vehicle Operation hazards</p>	<p>Potential for physical harm secondary to vehicle crashes, near misses, and providing patient care while moving.</p>	<p>Provide seatbelts and other vehicular safety measures. Place padding on hard edges in the patient care compartment. Safe work practices. Worker training for vehicle operations using the SMITH system defensive driving course. Worker training in moving about the patient care compartment while vehicle is in motion. Develop, implement, and enforce policies for safe vehicle operations.</p>	<p>Proper footwear. Eye protection.</p>
<p>Pinch points in and on vehicles</p>	<p>Potential for soft tissue and orthopedic injuries from vehicle doors, winches, air ride seats, compartment doors.</p>	<p>Train for awareness of potential pinch points. Provide warning labels near pinch points.</p>	
<p>3. Psychological Hazards and controls</p>			
<p>Abuse by patients or members of the public</p>	<p>This can promote fear and stress in a worker that can limit productivity and promote attendance problems.</p>	<p>Alarm systems and panic buttons. Video surveillance. Restricted entry to the building by traditional key or badge access. Onsite security. Management policies and procedure's related to no tolerance of violence or abuse. Worker education in violence awareness, avoidance, and de-escalation procedure's. Liaison and response protocols with local police. Working alone policies. Reporting procedures for incidents and near misses. Regular safety drills for events involving bomb threats, active shooters, and chemical attacks. Training on suspicious packages or individuals.</p>	



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<p>Abuse by Co-workers</p>	<p>This can promote fear in the employee to come to work as well as psychological stress.</p>	<p>Alarm systems and panic buttons. Video surveillance Management policies and procedure's related to no tolerance of violence or abuse. Worker education in violence awareness, avoidance, and de-escalation procedure's. Working alone policies.</p>	
<p>Hazards related to working alone Threats of violence Medical emergencies when alone</p>	<p>This causes fear in a worker that they will not be able to get help if they need it.</p>	<p>Communication devices. Vehicle design considerations. Panic alarms. Bright lighting. Surveillance cameras. Scheduling to avoid having workers work alone. Worker training. Working alone policies.</p>	
<p>Stress related to critical incidents</p>	<p>Causes potentially long term stress</p>	<p>Training to increase awareness of signs and symptoms of critical incident stress. Critical incident stress team to respond to incidents. Communication and call procedure's to mobilize team. Defusing's and debriefings as appropriate.</p>	
<p>Techno stress related to the introduction of new technology</p>	<p>Causes stress in workers forced to deal with new technological hardware or software</p>	<p>Design of instruments or equipment with user-friendly features. Selection procedures to ensure user-friendly technology choices. Provision of sufficient training for workers. Worker participation in selection and implementation of new technology. Provision of problem solving resources and support workers. Back-up plans in the event of failures. Change management strategy for introduction of new technology. Realistic expectations regarding use of communication technology. Limit use of technological monitoring of worker productivity. Setting and</p>	



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		communication of priorities.	
Substance abuse as a response to excessive workplace stressors	Can cause performance issues in the workplace as well as dangers to clients and other workers. Can promote a higher risk of violence or theft from the company or other workers	Worker involvement in substance abuse policy and procedure's development. Worker education about substance abuse. Training workers and supervisors to recognize the signs and symptoms of substance abuse. Procedures to limit individual access to narcotics. Provisions of counseling services and return to work plans.	
Depression, anxiety, and sleep disorders or other mental illness as a response to excessive workplace stressors.	Can cause performance issues as well as a lower level of personal awareness which can lead to a higher risk of injury to themselves or others. Can increase the risk of conflict or violence towards other workers or clients.	Worker education about the signs and symptoms of depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, or other mental illness. Elimination of workplace risk factors for depression, anxiety, sleep disorders, or other mental illnesses. Provision of support services and programs such as EAP referrals. Benefit plans provision. Effective return to work programs.	



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<p>Hazards related to impacts of aging on workers</p>	<p>Can cause mental as well as physical stress on a worker, resulting in injury or the level of productivity.</p>	<p>Mechanical devices and power equipment for lifting/moving. Storing objects at appropriate heights, packing in smaller quantities, or containers. Supportive, adjustable seating and workstations. Cell phones and pagers that incorporate vibration. Proper lighting. Adjustable temperature controls. Management policies and procedures that ensure no age discrimination. Proactive policies to accommodate aging workers. Training opportunities for aging workers. Education for all workers on intergenerational communication. Aging workers as trainers/mentors. Flexible work arrangement. Job redesign to accommodate aging workers.</p>	
<p>Stress related to work life conflict</p>	<p>This can cause stress that could limit productivity as well as an increase in the risk for work place violence.</p>	<p>Management policies and procedures that support work-life balance (e.g. voluntary reduced hours, voluntary part-time work, phased in retirement, telecommuting, job sharing, paid and unpaid leaves, dependent care initiatives, etc.) Work designed to address workload and work demands issues. Reliance on paid and unpaid overtime is reduced. Supportive management culture. Work-life balance policies are communicated to workers. The use and impact of work-life balance policies measured.</p>	
<p>Exposure to nuisance or irritating noise levels that may induce stress</p>	<p>This stress can lead to workplace conflict and stress in the workers</p>	<p>Any engineering controls required to abate noise to allowable levels, if over PEL. Sound absorber panels.</p>	



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	home life.	<p>Personal communication devices rather than overhead pagers. Maintenance and repair of facility equipment, including the ventilation system. Lubrication of equipment with moving parts. Design considerations related to noise reduction in new/renovated facilities. Padded chart holders and pneumatic tube systems. Sound masking technology. Lower rings on telephones. Encourage use of soft soled shoes. Worker education on noise levels created by various activities. Posted reminders to reduce noise. Purchasing decisions that take into account noise levels of equipment. Location of noisy equipment to more isolated areas. Work organization at workstations to reduce noise.</p>	
Exposure to poor indoor air quality that may induce stress	Can cause stress as well as health concerns	<p>Proper ventilation system design. Ventilation system maintenance activities. Isolation/segregation of work processes that may create contaminants. Contractor requirements to reduce air contamination. Selection of low-pollutant cleaning chemicals. Cleaning schedules. Infection prevention and control standards. Rules regarding the use of personal appliances that may impact HVAC operations. Procedures to report and investigate indoor air quality complaints. Worker involvement in indoor air quality investigation. Communication to enable frank and timely discussion of IAQ</p>	



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		issues and what is being done to solve them.	
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I acknowledge that I have read and understand this Field Risk Assessment. By signing I agree to adhere to the requirements set forth in this document for the use of Personal Protective Equipment/Other Protective Measures.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Number \_\_\_\_\_

Sign \_\_\_\_\_