**Section 300 – Employee Health & Safety**

|  |
| --- |
| Infection Control – 301.00  |
| S.O.P # 301.06 | **Parasite Prevention, Procedure & Reporting** | Page: 1 of 3 |
| EFFECTIVE: 10/14/2019 | Authorized: Board of Directors |
| REVISED: |  |

**301.06.01 Purpose**

This SOP provides guidance and reporting procedures for personnel who are exposed to parasitic insects while on duty.

**301.06.02 Definition**

1. **Bed Linen**: For the purpose of this SOP, bed linen is defined as any piece of garment used by the employee to make their bed. Such items include sheets, blankets, pillows and pillow cases.
2. **Parasite**: Any organism that lives in or on another organism without benefiting the host organism; to include bed bugs, body lice, head lice, pubic lice (crab louse), mites and scabies.

**301.06.03 Applicability**

All uniformed personnel.

**301.06.04 Prevention**

1. Refer to SOP # 100.09, Station Duty Assignments.
2. Equipment used for administering patient care should not be brought into berthing quarters or common living areas.
3. PPE should not be brought or stored in berthing quarters or common living areas.
4. Limit exposure of crew and equipment to areas of infestation.

**301.06.05 Parasite Contact Procedures - Field**

In the event an EMS Unit and/or crew transports and/or comes into contact with a possible patient or surroundings with parasitic activity, the following actions should be taken:

1. Personnel should immediately notify the Duty Officer of the possible exposure.
2. The Duty Officer will:
	1. Post call have the crew assigned to the unit(s) remove all clothing to limit the potential of exposure,
	2. Place the exposed clothing into garbage bags to contain and isolate parasites;
	3. Have personnel immediately place clothing into a dryer on high heat to terminate the parasites;
	4. Have personnel shower;
	5. Have the clothing immediately washed and dried;
	6. Have personnel place any garments or towels that were used to shower in the dryer on high heat first, then wash and dry them;
	7. Ensure EMS unit/Ambulance and equipment is decontaminated using normal decontamination procedures. Units do not need to be placed OOS or fumigated;
	8. All personnel at the station should be notified of the problem and provided available literature on parasites.
3. Personnel at the affected facility are encouraged to shower and change their clothes at the end of their shift. To the extent possible, soiled clothing and bedding should be washed at the station and not brought home to limit cross-contamination.

**301.06.06 Parasite Contact Procedures – Station**

For a discovered case of parasites in the station:

1. Personnel should immediately contact the Duty Officer.
2. The Duty Officer will:
	1. Notify the Chief or Asst. Chief.
	2. Ensure that contaminated bed linen, uniforms and other related items are placed in a dryer on high heat for twenty (20) minutes.
	3. Ensure all bed linens are washed in hot water and dried on high heat;
	4. Ensure all clothing that cannot be washed is immediately bagged;
	5. Ensure all cloth covered furniture is vacuumed and the vacuum cleaner bag is disposed of. If bagless vacuum is used, empty reservoir and wash in hot soapy water;
	6. The affected mattress and surrounding area should be sprayed with a high concentration isopropyl alcohol solution of 92%;
	7. The bunkroom and adjacent areas should be inspected for signs of further parasitic infestation.
3. All personnel at the station should be notified of the problem and be provided available literature on parasites.
4. Personnel at affected facility are encouraged to shower and change their clothes at the end of their shift. To the extent possible, soiled clothing and bedding should be washed at the station to limit cross-contamination.
5. Based on the size of the parasitic infestation, a professional exterminator may need to be called in to mitigate the situation.