CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

JOINT STANDALONE GRAPHIC | APRIL 2020

(U) COVID-19: Precautions, Protocols, and Personal Protective Equipment for First Responders

(U) Due to the severity of California's COVID-19 outbreak, first responders should consider precautions, protocols, and the use of personal protection equipment (PPE) when responding to an incident or engaging with the community.

*(U) **Scope Note**: The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other federal, state, and local governments are actively responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19) first detected in China and now present in the United States. All first responders who expect to come in contact with potential COVID-19 patients will need to consider PPE and decontamination protocols.*

(U) Background

(U) This guidance applies to all first responders—law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, and disaster service workers—who may come in close contact with people who are either confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19.

(U) First Responder Precautions

- Stay 6 feet away (preferably outside) while interviewing to avoid aerosolized/droplet transmission
- Remain alert to individuals attempting to intentionally spread virus via various methods of exposure
- Wear PPE – examination gloves, eye protection, masks for suspected infected individuals, and gowns for medical response
- Decontaminate surfaces and tools where cross-contamination could take place
- Decontaminate and dispose of PPE as necessary before returning to police car or fire engine
- Follow CDC guidelines when donning and doffing PPE to avoid contamination of self and others.
- Law enforcement officers should promptly disinfect gear, including duty belts after physical contact

CDC & CDPH Guidelines for First Responders

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-law-enforcement.html

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html

HSEC 2.1, HSEC 6.1; STAC-KIQ 4.3, STAC-KIQ 9.1

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(U) The STAC encourages your feedback using this Survey Link.