



Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association

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LAAFCFA: COVID-19 Safety Stand Down

Due to the recent increase in infection rates among Los Angeles region fire department personnel, the 30 Fire Chiefs represented by the Los Angeles Area Fire Chiefs Association agreed to participate in a COVID-19 Safety Stand Down. The COVID-19 Safety Stand Down will take place from Monday, July 20 through Friday, July 24, 2020. This Safety Stand Down will not impact fire department services. The intent and action items of the COVID-19 Safety Stand Down are below.

COVID-19 Safety Stand Down

The COVID-19 pandemic is proving to be a challenge of historic proportions and has already taken a significant toll on our communities. Firefighters and EMS personnel have not been immune to the impact of COVID-19. Thousands of firefighters and EMS personnel across the country have contracted this deadly virus, and, sadly, dozens have lost their lives. Although some progress is being made, the spread of COVID-19 appears to be picking up speed, including the spread among our region’s fire personnel.

It is for this reason that the region’s fire chiefs have agreed to conduct a COVID-19 Safety Stand Down. **The objective is to emphasize the severe risks that COVID-19 represents to our people and our communities, and strongly emphasize the vital importance of the proper use of PPE, hand-washing, and physical distancing.** It is also important that our people set an example and conduct themselves in a manner that will protect our communities.

As a part of this Safety Stand Down, all Los Angeles area fire department personnel are requested to participate in the following activities during the week of July 20 through 24, 2020:

- View the COVID Safety Stand Down video, which can be accessed at: <https://vimeo.com/438791580/03eb14f2eb>
- [LACoDPH – COVID-19 Best Practices from On-Site Assessment at the Firehouses/Ambulance Quarters-Shared Living Houses](#)
- [LACoFD – Redoubling Our Efforts to Keep Each Other Safe – OA-19](#)
- [LACoFD – Keeping Each Other Safe Guidelines](#)
- [LACoFD – Fire House Physical Distancing 101](#)
- [LACoFD – COVID-19 ICP and Rehab Directives](#)
- [LACoFD – Donning and Doffing Video](#)
- [LAFD – COVID-19 Hygiene Precautions Video](#)
- [LAFD – COVID-19 Station and Apparatus Sanitizing Procedures Video](#)
- [CDC – What Firefighters and EMS Providers Need to Know about COVID-19](#)
- [CDC/NWCG – Prevention and Management of COVID-19 During Wildland Fire Operations](#)
- [HRTF – Guidance for First Responder Interaction with Suspected Confirmed COVID-19 Patients](#)
- [CA STAC – COVID-19 – Precautions, Protocols, and PPE For First Responders](#)

*Documents can be accessed at <https://laafca.org/COVID19SAFETYStandDown/>

COVID-19 Safety Stand Down Checklist of Considerations

1. Now more than ever is the time to stay vigilant. Do not let your guard down.
 - COVID-19 PPE may be around for an extended amount of time and is a part of our safety equipment. Embrace it. Do not push away from it.
 - We all have a responsibility not to spread the virus to others, including co-workers and community members.
2. Lead by example. We owe this to our communities.
 - Wear a face mask.
 - Practice good hygiene.
 - Maintain social distancing.
3. Comply with health directives, especially in the fire station. Firefighters do not live in a bubble and can become spreaders if not cautious.
 - Stay tuned to changing protocols.
 - Include COVID-19 updates in fire station lineups and regular training.
4. Assume that anyone of us could be contagious at any moment. Take the precautions so that if we find out that we have COVID-19, we would not have spread it to our co-workers.
 - Report all exposures.
 - Report any symptoms.
 - Isolate yourself following an exposure or if you are experiencing symptoms.
5. Take care of your mental and physical health.
 - Exercise regularly.
 - Maintain a good diet.
 - Get sufficient rest.
 - When stressed, do not hesitate to talk to someone.

Conclusion

It is the sincere hope of LAAFCA that we contribute to flattening the curve among our first responders and beyond and continue to serve our communities in this time of need.