



# Burlington Fire Department



136 South Winooski Avenue  
Burlington, Vermont 05401-8378

(802) 864-4554 • (802) 658-2700 (TTY)

Business Fax (802) 864-5945 • Central Station Fax (802) 865-5387

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| <b>Section: 03 - Safety</b>                   |                                      |
| <b>SOG Number: 03.09</b>                      | <b>Effective Date: Dec. 17, 2018</b> |
| <b>Subject: Exposure to Bedbugs</b>           |                                      |
| <b>By Order of Fire Chief Steven A. Locke</b> |                                      |

## **I. Purpose:**

To provide safe and effective decontamination process for Bedbugs.

## **II. Scope:**

This SOG applies to all Officers and Firefighters of the Burlington Fire Department. This Guideline is to be followed after an exposure to Bedbugs.

## **III. Definitions:**

Bedbug: A wingless bloodsucking hemipterous bug (*Cimex lectularius*) sometimes infesting houses and especially beds and feeding on human blood.

Contaminate: To make impure or unsuitable by contact or mixture with something unclean, bad, etc.

## **IV. Guidelines:**

- A). Upon being contaminated with a patient and property that is infested with Bedbugs all personnel should:
1. Notify the Company Officer or RTS.
  2. Remove themselves from the area when safe for the patient and employee to do so.
  3. Refrain from cross-contaminating others, equipment and apparatus.
  4. Consolidate all equipment (ie. medical bags) that may have become contaminated.
  5. Advise the receiving facility of your encounter with Bedbugs

B). Process for decontaminating clothing and personal items.

1. Remove all personal items such as, cell phone wallet, belt etc., and place them in a plastic bag and seal the bag tight.
2. Remove all clothing and place into another plastic bag and seal the bag tight.
3. Clothing needs to be placed into a clothes dryer on high heat for 30 minutes. This will kill the Bedbugs
4. After the initial 30 minutes drying process, wash clothing in hot water and dry.
5. Personal items can be inspected sprayed with 91% isopropyl alcohol, allow to air dry.
6. Shoes and boots should be vacuumed out and sprayed with 91% isopropyl alcohol, allow to air dry.
7. If these techniques are not feasible, place the item in a plastic bag and seal tightly, leave the bag in a warm place for 3 days (72 hours).

C). Process for decontaminating medical equipment.

1. Spray all surfaces with 91% isopropyl alcohol, allow to air dry.
2. Spray all surfaces with disinfectant and clean as usual.

D). Process for decontaminating apparatus.

1. Vacuum all surfaces with a shop vacuum
  - a. Empty vacuum into plastic bag and dispose of immediately.
  - b. Spray inside of vacuum with 91% isopropyl alcohol, allow to air dry.
2. Spray all surfaces with 91% isopropyl alcohol, allow to air dry.
3. Spray all surfaces with disinfectant and clean as usual.

E). Bed bugs found in a Fire Station.

If bed bugs are found in the station the following actions shall be taken. The station living quarters shall be immediately cleaned by the following steps:

1. Floors swept and mopped.
2. All drapery shall be removed and washed.
3. Walls and baseboards shall be wiped down with a disinfectant cleaner.

4. Personal linen shall be washed and placed in a dryer on high heat for at least 30 minutes.
5. The Company Officer shall notify the Shift Commander immediately. An e-mail shall be sent to the DC of Administration and DC of Operations.
6. The DC of Administration shall determine if a professional pest control company should be contracted.

**V. Responsibility:**

A). It is the responsibility of all members to read, understand and follow this Standard Operating Guideline.

| Revision History |         |               |                              |
|------------------|---------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Revision Date    | Section | Summary       | Principal Author             |
| None             |         | New document. | BC Crady/Captain<br>LaChance |