

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS**SECTION:** 304.03**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 13, 2004**PAGE(S):** 2

PURPOSE

- A. To identify those situations this may pose a health hazard to the general public.
- B. To initiate the notification of the proper agency (ies) whenever a public health hazard has been identified.

POLICY

- A. Fire Department members should be alert and able to identify public health hazards while operating at alarm incidents or while on fire prevention or pre-fire planning inspections.
- B. Whenever a public health hazard has been identified, based upon the listed criteria (see Criteria), and the hazard is of a nature which will expose the general public (more than a single family occupying a private residence) to said hazard, then the Incident Commander should contact the Hamilton County General Health Department, via dispatch.

CRITERIA

The following criteria are to be considered when making any determination considering notification of the Hamilton County General Health Department and appropriate city departments and/or divisions.

- A. Identification of the following health hazards:
 - 1. Sewage spills and leaks.
 - 2. Unreasonable amounts of dirt, grease, and bad house keeping fostering unsanitary conditions.
 - 3. The presence of infectious diseases.
 - 4. The presence of rodents.
 - 5. Abnormal amounts of insects.
 - 6. Food which has been exposed to products of combustion.
 - 7. Hazardous materials spills and leaks.
- B. Determination of the type of occupancy involved:
 - 1. Any public assembly.
 - 2. Businesses where the general public may be involved.
 - 3. Situations where employees are subjected to unhealthy conditions.
 - 4. Public areas and throughways.

5. Multiple occupancy residences, such as, hotels, motels, and apartments (where the hazard affects people other than those living in a single residence).

PROCEDURE

Whenever a public health hazard has been identified and said hazard meets the listed criteria (see Criteria) or when in the opinion of the Fire Department a definite endangerment of the public health exists, the following guidelines should apply:

- A. The officer in charge should contact dispatch and request notification of the Hamilton County General Health Department.
- B. If an unhealthy situation is discovered in a private residence (home, apartment, condominium, etc.), it will be necessary to establish that this condition affects people other than those living in the residence before notification of the Health Department can be made.
- C. Depending upon the nature of the situation, other city or county departments and/or divisions may be notified to respond. These may include:
 1. Police Department
 2. Social Services
 3. Public Works Department
 4. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. Fire Department officers in charge of routine details or commanding emergency operations, who become aware of public health hazards which meet the listed criteria and guidelines within this policy, are responsible for notification of the Hamilton County General Health Department and those county departments and/or divisions which may be appropriate to the situation.
- B. Fire Department members, who suspect or identify a public health hazard, are responsible for notification of their immediate supervisor.