

Volusia County Fire Services Safety Gram

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Hand Hygiene Guidelines

As firefighters respond to several different types of medical emergencies, they are exposed to bacteria and antimicrobial resistant organisms. Hand washing is the first line of defense to reduce transmission of antimicrobial resistant organisms and reduce overall infection rates.

Centers for Disease Control - Recommended Procedures:

- a. Hands and other skin surfaces should be washed immediately and thoroughly if contaminated with blood or other body fluids to which universal precautions apply.
- b. Hands should always be washed after gloves are removed, even if the gloves appear to be intact.
- c. Hand washing should be completed using appropriate facilities, such as utility or restroom sink.
- d. Wash hands with warm water and soap providing as much friction to skin surfaces, as possible.

Waterless antiseptic hand cleanser should be used when hand washing facilities are not available.



Common Denominators of Fire Behavior on Tragedy Fires

There are four major common denominators on fatal and near fatal fires. Such fires often occur:

1. On relatively small fires or deceptive quiet areas of large fires.
2. In relatively light fuels, such as grass, herbs, and light brush.
3. When there is an unexpected shift in wind direction or in wind speed.
4. When fire responds to topographic conditions and runs uphill.

Standard Firefighting Orders

1. Keep informed on fire weather conditions and forecasts.
2. Know what your fire is doing at all times.
3. Base all actions on current and expected behavior of the fire.
4. Identify escape routes and safety zones, and make them known.
5. Post lookouts when there is possible danger.
6. Be alert. Keep calm. Think clearly. Act decisively.
7. Maintain prompt communications with your forces, your supervisor and adjoining forces.
8. Give clear instructions and ensure they are understood.
9. Maintain control of your forces at all times.
10. Fight fire aggressively, having provided for safety first.