

Glassy Mountain Fire Department

Change in Response Due to COVID-19 Pandemic 04-06-20

With the new recommendation from the CDC that came out over the weekend, I am asking that all personnel wear a face covering (I.e. homemade or other) when either responding on medical calls (which we are limiting who and how many persons interact with patients and family) or visiting a fire station if not part of the daily duty crew.

This is to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus by asymptomatic individuals to others. These face coverings will also minimally reduce the possibility of you being infected by someone that is without symptoms when meeting face to face (with at least 6' inbetween).

Some agencies throughout the US also have personnel wearing masks in stations while on duty with other crew members, but I believe that is a bit of an overkill. However, if you feel you would like to wear a face covering while on duty, please feel free to do so. I just ask that you either purchase or fashion a face covering as suggested by the CDC and not use a surgical mask with the exception while on a call as previously described (I.e. masking the patient and yourself).

Here is a link to the CDC Face Coverings web page: [Cloth Face Cover](#)

The International Association of Fire Chiefs is also looking at the feasibility of using a flash hood as a face covering which each firefighter already has and can be easily landured after a shift or as needed. Again, this is not to prevent the wearer from contracting an infection but to prevent spreading droplets to others when good social distancing practices cannot be used.

As we enter a week that the Surgeon General and Dr. Fauci described as horrific as Pearl Harbor or 9/11 in deaths of Americans from this invisible enemy, everything we are doing to slow the spread and flatten the curve will hopefully result in lower numbers than originally predicted.

Stay safe! Thanks for all you do!

Sincerely,

Robert Staples, MS, CFO, EFO

Fire Chief

Glassy Mountain Fire Department

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Operational Changes – Glassy Mountain Fire Dept. - 03/24/20

Out of an abundance of caution and guidance by Greenville County Emergency Medical Services, the Glassy Mountain Fire Department will no longer be responding to low acuity medical emergencies with persons reporting signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

We will still be responding to medical emergencies where there are no obvious signs and

symptoms of Coronavirus and those patients that are experiencing acute medical emergencies associated with the COVID-19 disease.

Our personnel will assess each response by asking the patient or friends/family members if the patient has experienced any of the commonly associated signs and symptoms of Coronavirus infection including: Fever, Dry Cough, Body Aches, and Difficulty Breathing. Personnel will also take the patient's temperature using an infrared device and may be wearing a surgical or N-95 mask, eye protection, and gown. GMFD EMS personnel routinely wear gloves during every patient encounter.

This change in response protocol is meant to reduce the number of public safety and EMS providers potentially exposed to the Coronavirus thus reducing the number of Fire Rescue personnel available to respond to all requests for service. The Glassy Mountain Fire Department will resume response to all medical emergencies once the COVID-19 outbreak subsides and under the guidance and advice of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the Centers for Disease Control, and Greenville County Emergency Medical Services.

We ask for and appreciate your understanding during this trying time in our history.

**Robert Staples, MS, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief
Glassy Mountain Fire Department
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Operational Changes – Glassy Mountain Fire Dept. - 03/19/20

The following changes to daily operations will be effective immediately:

- 1. Any and all training that requires personnel other than those on duty is cancelled through May 1st.**
- 2. All Fire Inspections shall be suspended until further notice.**
- 3. Friends and family members of employees are not permitted to visit any department facility other than to drop off supplies, etc. No visitors inside of the stations.**
- 4. Contractors/vendors, other than for emergency repairs to mission-critical equipment or infrastructure will be not permitted in any department facility.**
- 5. Any public will be restricted from entering any fire station and should be greeted at the doorway and provided directions, etc. outside of the facility. Medical emergencies presenting at the station will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.**
- 6. When personnel fuel vehicles at local service stations, they shall don protective, disposable gloves and remove them after completion of fueling. Members shall clean their hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water as soon as feasible.**
- 7. Personnel shall not accept any homemade meals or treats offered by the public until further notice. This does not include meals provided by local restaurants/eateries and delivered by others. However, personnel shall ensure any**

method or transport (box, bag, etc.) is disposed of immediately and personnel wash their hands thoroughly before eating.

I know some of these seem draconian in nature, however, this virus is spreading rapidly and we must do as much as possible to break the cycle of spreading this virus, and hopefully flattening the curve.

**Stay Home, Save Lives. Practice Social Distancing. Wash Your Hands. Don't Touch Your Face, Eyes, Mouth or Nose with unclean hands.
Thanks for all you! Stay Safe!**

**Robert Staples, MS, CFO, EFO
Fire Chief
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