

THE HANFORD SITE

May 14, 2020

TO: All Hanford Site Employees
FROM: Craig Walton, Vice President, Emergency Services, Mission Support Alliance

SUBJECT: Changes to Hanford Fire Department Response

****PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH THOSE WHO ARE NOT ON COMPUTERS****

The Hanford Fire Department (HFD) has created this short educational video to help inform the Hanford workforce about recent changes in emergency response due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes mean that when you call 911, it may sound different, and if there is a potential risk of COVID-19 exposure, emergency response personnel will be dressed differently. HFD wants our workforce to know what to expect and we urge you to take a few minutes to watch.

In early February, the Washington State Department of Health, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recognized the hazards associated with emergency medical providers responding to patients who potentially have COVID-19. New guidance for infection control was issued to all emergency medical services agencies statewide.

Part of this new guidance includes asking callers reporting medical emergencies to 911 a series of questions related to COVID-19 signs and symptoms. This screening helps the dispatcher determine the appropriate level of personal protective equipment required for the responding emergency medical technicians and paramedics. If there is any chance a patient may have COVID-19, the responding firefighters are advised while responding and will don a higher level of PPE to help protect both themselves and their patients.

If you have any questions regarding this new HFD protocol, please call HFD Deputy Chief Adam Moldovan at (509) 372-0359.



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