

## **22 Biological Hazard Response**

### **22.1 General Precaution**

22.1.1 The threat of a Biological Hazard is not to be taken lightly. All reported incidents will be handled as if they are true and deemed to be a danger until investigations have proven otherwise.

22.1.2 The South Wall Fire Rescue Company will be a support company in regards to responses of reported Biological Hazards. At **NO** time will firefighters of this Company handle suspected packages or substances. This task is the responsibility of the Haz-Mat technicians.

22.1.3 Incidents occurring in Wall Township will be coordinated with the Wall Township Office of Emergency Management. The OEM Coordinator should have contacted a responsible Haz-Mat team that will handle the identification of the suspected hazard and decontamination of the affected scene.

### **22.2 Response to Biological Incidents**

22.2.1 When the South Wall Fire Rescue Company is dispatched to a potential Biological Hazard incident, the OIC will respond and communicate, face to face with the Haz-Mat IC. Apparatus and personnel will stage a safe distance from the incident sight.

22.2.2 Once at the reported sight, personnel will remain on the apparatus. Other personnel will not approach the scene, unless instructed otherwise. This is to lessen the possibility of exposure.

### **22.3 Operations at Biological Incidents**

22.3.1 The operations at Biological Incidents for this company will be limited to assistance with decontamination, only.

22.3.2 Due to the wide range of hazard possibilities, the South Wall Fire Rescue IC will locate the Haz-Mat IC and receive instructions on how to set up and operate a safe decontamination area.

22.3.3 Once specific information has been received for the

proper operations of a decontamination scene, that equipment will be obtained and established in a safe, secure area.

22.3.4 A minimal number of firefighters will operate in the decontamination area. This will lessen the amount of personnel from this agency, that will, potentially be exposed to these, suspected, elements.

22.3.5 During the decontamination process, firefighters will wear the proper protective equipment. At all times, firefighters, from South Wall Fire Rescue, will operate in the Warm Zone, with SCBA. PPE will be dictated upon the nature of the incident, this could include Tyvex suits or firefighting gear. The proper equipment will be determined by the Haz-Mat IC.

## **22.4 Reporting**

22.4.1 A detailed report will be made upon conclusion of the incident. This report will contain the names of firefighters that completed decontamination. The report may also contain a diagram of the decontamination sight. If any firefighters were exposed to Biological Hazards, a Fire Service Injury/Illness Report must be completed.

22.4.2 In the absence of the South Wall Fire Rescue Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief, he/she will be notified, IMMEDIATELY, by telephone, upon completion of this incident. The Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief will be responsible for reporting to the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wall Fire District #3. This may also require further investigation and reporting by him/her or their staff. A follow-up physical examination may be required.

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