

Orland Fire Department
Covid-19 Policy
March 14, 2020

The Orland Fire Department is not an EMS provider at any level. Because of this, we do not provide training or equipment for responding to emergency medical calls. We do not have supplies on hand to regularly provide proper PPE to protect our members from Covid-19 or similar airborne viruses.

At this time, the Orland Fire Department will adhere to the following procedures to keep our members and our community safe:

1. Bucksport EMS will only request assistance from the Orland Fire Department
 - a. When the risk for Covid-19 has been assessed by EMS responders and the determination made that there is no risk
 - b. We request that Bucksport EMS waits to request a lift-assist from Orland Fire Department until after they have arrived on scene and been able to assess directly the risk for Covid-19 exposure
 - c. We ask that this information be clearly communicated by dispatch when requesting assistance, so that our responders know, before responding, that it has been determined that there is no known risk.
2. Orland Fire Department members will not respond to emergency medical calls unless/until Bucksport EMS has arrived on scene and determined that there is no known risk for Covid-19 exposure, and Bucksport EMS has formally requested our assistance. **NO SELF DISPATCHING TO MEDICAL CALLS!!!**
3. In the course of responding to the types of calls that the Orland Fire Department generally responds to (non-medical calls), Orland Fire Department members will be alert to any indicators that individuals on the scene are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 exposure or illness. If these symptoms are noted, all Orland Fire Department Members will don appropriate PPE, either SCBA on air or, for those who have been fit tested, N95 masks and eye protection. In addition, universal precautions for bloodborne and airborne pathogens will be used. We acknowledge that other conditions and illness could cause these same symptoms, but we will err on the side of caution and assume the worst.
 - a. Currently identified symptoms:
 - i. Fever
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of Breath
4. If the Orland Fire Department is dispatched to a residence for a fire, CO alarm, or similar emergency, and there is a known case of Covid-19 exposure or infection at the residence, all Orland Fire Department members entering the structure will wear full PPE, including SCBA on air. Only the minimum number of OFD personnel necessary to

resolve the hazard shall enter the structure, and all other responding members will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from occupants.

- a. After responding to a call where there is a known case of Covid-19 exposure or infection at the residence, the turnout gear of all responders who entered the structure will be washed following protocols for structure fires.
5. After responding to all calls, Orland Fire Department members will follow proper hand washing procedures (soap and water, 20 seconds) before handling anything at the fire station or returning to their homes. Hand sanitizer can be used as a temporary step until proper handwashing is available.
6. As an Orland Fire Department member, if you are feeling ill with any of the symptoms listed above, or if you have had a known exposure to Covid-19, DO NOT RESPOND TO CALLS and DO NOT ENTER THE FIRE STATION. If members of the Orland Fire Department experience an exposure to Covid-19, they will be required to self-quarantine, and if a significant number of members are exposed, we will not be able to protect our community.

Additional information and Resources:

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - CDC website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) - Maine CDC

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus.shtml>

International Association of Firefighters Covid-19 Resources

<https://www.iaff.org/coronavirus/>