

VPFFA COVID-19 Update - March 20

Good Evening Brothers & Sisters,

In a desire to mitigate exposure and risk, the Health and Safety Committee is asking all VPFFA members to take immediate action on three pressing items:

1. SCBA Face Piece Cleaning

We are asking all Members to please decontaminate their individual and personal face pieces upon commencement of their next shift and prior to donning.

Some individuals facepieces may have been handled while they were not in the workplace and there exists uncertainty in regards to the precautions used when they were handled.

It is through an abundance of caution we are advising each member to clean their face pieces as well as continue to clean them after application and use following departmental policy for cleaning and maintenance of face pieces.

2. Social Distancing

Firefighters attending other stations for any reason are asked to respect social distancing at these locations. This applies to, but is not limited to the ongoing fit testing taking place at Station 7-2. A good practice in this situation is to wait in truck until it is your turn to be tested. Then only entering the structure through the closest door and entering into the testing room.

Practices such as this will decrease risk to yourselves as well as your brothers and sisters, who are working in those workspaces.

3. Engagement in Community

Completing non-essential tasks in the community while on shift will increase the frequency and risk of exposure within the community. This by nature also increases the risk for transmission around the firehall and at home.

Consideration should be made that when shopping off shift for your family that you pick up anything required or needed for station (kitty or meals). The decrease in frequency is a positive step in the mitigation of risk within our firehalls.

Should you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to members of the health and safety team, executives or shop stewards.

Thank you,

Tyler Solonenko
Health and Safety