

## **Shepherd Tri-Township Fire Department TUBERCULOSIS EXPOSURE**

### **Procedure:**

This policy shall apply to all incidents involving possible tuberculosis exposure. It is established in the attempt to protect medically trained fire personnel and remain in compliance with MIOSHA Directive 96-9 of August 7, 1996.

- A. STTFD personnel **shall not** accompany any patients with known or infectious tuberculosis (TB) in a closed vehicle. Transporting EMS personnel are better equipped and trained to care for patients in this high hazard condition.
- B. STTFD personnel **shall not** perform or assist during the following high hazard procedures on known or suspected infectious TB patients: Aerosolized medication treatments, endotracheal intubation, and suctioning procedures. EMS personnel are better equipped and trained to care for patients during these high hazard procedures.
- C. STTFD personnel shall have provided to them and **shall utilize** appropriate and approved respiratory protection whenever they may encounter potential exposure to exhaled air from an individual with suspected or confirmed pulmonary TB disease. When respiratory protection is utilized, it is to be disposed of in a biohazard receptacle immediately after use.
- D. A suspected TB case is anyone who has been identified as having symptoms consistent with TB. The CDC has identified the symptoms of TB to be: productive cough, coughing up blood, weight loss, loss of appetite, lethargy/weakness, night sweats or fever.
- E. STTFD personnel who experience exposure to individuals who have suspected or confirmed TB and for whom infection control precautions have not been taken shall be managed in accordance with CDC recommendations. Employees who develop symptoms of TB disease shall be immediately evaluated according to CDC guidelines.

### **Procedure Overview/Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism to assure that STTFD personnel are adequately protected from potential exposure to tuberculosis and to establish guidelines to follow if such an exposure were to take place.