



# MARSHAL MATTERS

## APRIL 2020

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## Marshal's Minute-State Fire Marshal Matt Perez



COVID-19 has created a crisis unlike any other I have seen in my 35-year career in public safety. Our agency has been forced to change the way we work and communicate, but we continue to provide every function that can be done safely for our employees and the public. Our Arson Division has done an outstanding job of providing uninterrupted fire investigations in support of local police and fire departments. Although they have had to alter their personal protective equipment (PPE), and how they conduct their business, all of our Arson Division Special Agents have continued to respond to requests for investigations during the COVID19 pandemic. As the agency was trying to procure PPE equipment, many of the Special Agents took it upon themselves to make sure their co-workers were safe. Their efforts to make the best of a bad situation are very much appreciated.

Our Personnel Standards and Education Division has worked through difficulties to resume the certification testing process so that the Illinois fire service can still have access to the training that is essential to doing their jobs safely and effectively. In addition, our Petroleum and Chemical Safety and Fire Prevention inspectors have continued those functions that are needed wvto support the essential and support services of our state. 95% of our office staff have been transitioned to working remotely and continue to provide administrative support to our divisions. I am also very proud of our executive staff who have ensured that our employees have sufficient equipment, resources, connectivity and a safe work environment during this crisis.

I am also very proud of the Illinois fire service for whom we tirelessly work to support. Our firefighters have answered the call at every turn and selflessly put the wellbeing of the public ahead of their own. Three of our firefighters have succumbed to COVID19 related illnesses. The bravery and sacrifice of Chicago Fire Department Firefighters Mario Araujo, Edward Singleton, and River Grove Fire Department EMS Coordinator Robert Reisinger exemplify the best of what the fire service is, and we offer our sincerest condolences to their families and fire departments.

We will continue to review OSFM operations to ensure that we are providing as many of our normal services as possible and we will work closely with all the Illinois fire service organizations in order to keep the State Emergency Operation Center, IDPH and the Governor's office up to date on all issues faced by the fire service as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

## Employee Spotlight



# Sean Miller

## Attorney

## Legal Division

**Where are you originally from?** Dieterich, IL

**Tell us about your family?** My wife, Ashley Miller, works at HSHS in Human Resources. We'll be married 4 years this October.

**Favorite food(s)?** Key Lime Pie, steak, BBQ, pretty much anything.

**Hobbies?** Guitar, watching Jeopardy, cooking, playing pub trivia

**What's your favorite movie or book?** My favorite book is almost anything history or non-fiction. My favorite all time movie is Goodfellas, but I'm watching a lot of Tiger King on Netflix recently.

**When you get in the car what type of music will be coming out of your speakers?** A little bit of everything; country, oldies, classical, reggae, rock.

**What did you want to be when you were a kid?** A weatherman, but I found out math and science were involved, so, like most people who aren't good at math and science, I became a lawyer.

**What's your favorite part of the job?** The culture and the people who work at the agency are awesome.

**What's something unique about you?** I was an intern for Barack Obama when he was in the US Senate.

**Where is your favorite place to vacation?** Anywhere in the Caribbean, but Antigua is especially beautiful.

**Where is your bucket list destination?** Ireland

## Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During A Pandemic

# Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During a Pandemic



**Use this information to help your fire department prepare for a pandemic.**

### Put the wet stuff on the red stuff

- Stop all nonemergency tasks, such as hydrant inspection, code inspection, outreach and drills.
- Reassign personnel from nonemergency tasks to field operations.
- Backfill less-essential functions with supplemental volunteers and personnel from other departments and agencies.

### Manage expectations

- Keep government officials and leadership informed of potential impacts on response times caused by loss of personnel.
- Include labor and other municipal components in planning.
- Inform the public.
- Maintain coordination with your local public health officials: Be informed.
- Ensure that everyone is on the same page.

### Keep your distance

- Assess patients at a distance — 6 feet away at first (or as determined by CDC) — in order to determine the presence of a respiratory or other contagious illness.
- If possible, meet patients in open air.
- If you must enter a home, assess the patient from the doorway first.
- Do not have your entire crew exposed when only one or two could conduct initial patient assessment.
- Follow guidance from CDC, state and local public health, and EMS officials.

### Fresh air is your friend

- Ventilate vehicles during transport.
- Ventilate vehicles after transport.



For more information, visit  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During A Pandemic

Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During a Pandemic

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### Wipe it down, wipe it out

- Use wipes — not sprays — to decontaminate equipment and exposed surfaces in vehicles post-response. Wipes are recommended to avoid re-aerosolizing the germs or bacteria on contact.
- Place alcohol-based sanitizer in easily accessible locations.
- Do not touch your face with gloved or unwashed hands.
- Wash hands after cleaning equipment.
- Ensure that the cab areas of the ambulance and fire apparatus are also decontaminated.

### Train the way you fight

- Postpone routine training or conduct training specific to the pandemic instead.
- Train your volunteer force.

### Cleanliness is nonnegotiable

- Establish a location away from the firehouse where patients can come to you for assessment.
- Plan for receiving patients if they are walk-ins at facilities.
- Control the living and working environment (ventilation, contamination and patient flow).
- Decontaminate! Decontaminate! Decontaminate!
- Ensure that facilities are available for individuals to wash their hands and provide hand sanitizer in vehicles and facilities per CDC guidance.
- Shower and change clothes before leaving work: Go home clean!

### Assume the worst — hope for the best

- Assume that patients with respiratory symptoms have a viral infection.
- Always don recommended PPE before entering the environment of a patient with respiratory symptoms.
- If possible, place a mask on patients with respiratory symptoms.
- Wash hands, wash hands, wash hands.
- Change bunk bedding daily or after each use and clean linens and surfaces per CDC guidance.
- Follow guidance from CDC, state and local public health, and EMS officials.

### Green is not always clean

- Do not recycle or reuse anything that could be contaminated.
- If you cannot clean it adequately, dispose of it.
- Do not reuse any disposables, particularly masks and gloves.

### Mobilize your reserves

- Identify potential volunteers now such as nontraditional volunteer firefighting forces (e.g., CERTs, Medical Reserve Corps, Red Cross members).
- Call up volunteers (firefighters, support personnel).
- Identify tasks for volunteers (for example, decontaminating vehicles and protective clothing (if trained and provided with PPE)).
- Provide only the essential training needed for their role.
- As time allows, provide additional training for volunteers.

## Maintaining Dispatch Capabilities During A Pandemic

Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During a Pandemic

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### Rise to the occasion

- Reduce the number of shifts and lengthen shifts (for example, “12 on, 12 off”).
- Consider special shift for two-earner families so one can stay home for child care.
- Require overtime when needed to manage adequate staffing levels.
- If people have had the virus and returned to work, if cleared, ask more of them.
- Identify who is double-booked (for example, “I work in one community, but I serve as a volunteer in another community”).

### Let’s work together

- Cross-train with EMS, law enforcement and 911.
- Know what you can expect from your partners and do not assume business as usual.
- Do not assume that mutual-aid will be there. Contact mutual-aid coordinators and partners to maintain situational awareness.
  - Your first responders may be sick while someone else’s in the next county may not be so hard hit.
- If your region is unaffected, surge (if approved by the authority having jurisdiction) to help those regions that are affected.

### Fireproof your family

- Recognize that personnel have to take care of their families and plan accordingly.
- Consider allowing appropriate personnel to take the equipment home and possibly even respond from home depending on the situation and providing for proper infection control procedures.
- Encourage personnel at the firehouse to communicate with their families when possible to relieve stress.
- Encourage availability of webcams to enable firefighters to keep in touch with their families.

### Stock up

- You have to have food, water and supplies for your station.
- Stockpile the right things as soon as possible prior to or during the event.
- Purchase and store nutritious emergency food, such as beans and rice.
- Make contingency plans for water in case the city water supply is compromised or if bottled water is no longer delivered.

### Business as *un-usual*

- Acknowledge the acceptance of increased risk (depleted workforce and increased call volume).
- Anticipate that the situation will last for a long time.
- Fill fuel tanks more often.
- Use recommended PPE.
- Minimize size and deployment of response teams to minimize exposure.
- Reduce alarm responses. Consider alternatives to initial automatic alarms reporting hazardous materials incidents. Initial response could be a single unit or hazmat company unless there are other indicators that a larger response is needed.
- Limited staff may mean reduced crews on apparatus. Consider doubling apparatus response, or other options, to meet staffing needs.
- Cross-train other municipal workers or applicable volunteers to drive apparatus if allowable under the law (e.g., plow truck operators may be able to operate a fire engine, but you may need to provide basic pump operations training).

# Maintaining Fire Department Capabilities During A Pandemic

## Two in, two out

- ▶ Watch for fatigue and stress.
- ▶ Increase hydration.
- ▶ Aggressively engage peer support.
- ▶ Augment peer support with auxiliaries.
- ▶ Use the telephone for counseling to reduce exposure.
- ▶ Provide counseling and support for firefighters' families.
- ▶ Provide respite breaks for on-duty responders as needed.

## We are all in this together

- ▶ If not already required, encourage 100% vaccination for all personnel.
- ▶ If a vaccine is developed, vaccinate families if the vaccine is available for them.
- ▶ If a vaccine is developed, vaccinate at the station while on shift. (Contact your local public health director or agency to provide vaccines to the station.)
- ▶ If EMS personnel have authority to vaccinate in your state, coordinate with your EMS medical director to have them do so.
- ▶ Develop local incentives for rewarding those who get vaccinated and strongly encouraging those who do not.
- ▶ Maintain joint rumor control system and provide information.
- ▶ Lead by example: Leaders get vaccinated first.



For more information, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## Maintaining Dispatch Capabilities During A Pandemic

# Maintaining Dispatch Capabilities During a Pandemic



**Use this information to help your 911 telecommunications and emergency management prepare for a pandemic.**

### Manning and planning

- Keep your staff in the loop; listen to all their ideas and opinions.
- Define the triggers for calling up volunteers.
- Identify sources for your volunteer workforce.
- Identify potential volunteer assignments and tasks.
- What's your action plan? Plan for getting the word out that you need volunteers.
- Train your volunteers now.
- If not required, encourage 100% vaccination for all personnel.
- Vaccinate families if the vaccine is available for them.
- Vaccinate at the station while on shift (contact your local public health director or agency to provide vaccines to the station).
- Develop local incentives for rewarding those who get vaccinated and strongly encouraging those who do not.
- Maintain joint rumor control system and provide information to staff and citizens.
- Lead by example: Leaders get vaccinated first.

### Manage expectations

- Coordinate with key government officials for public health and emergency response.
  - Maintain current or establish new relationships early.
  - Review operation plans for call centers and information lines.
  - Plan to educate the community; decrease expectations for care.
  - Consult with other state and local call center officials.
  - Plan for a single point of service in your community.
  - Consider multicomunity aid.
  - Combine police, fire and EMS into one public safety answering point.
- Consult with local hospital and public health officials.
- Consult with telecommunications providers to plan for telephone trees, hotlines, information lines, additional trunk lines and potential lines for dispatchers telecommuting.
- Review 911 pandemic protocols from national professional organizations.



For more information, visit  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## Maintaining Dispatch Capabilities During A Pandemic

Maintaining Dispatch Capabilities during a Pandemic

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### Business as *un-usual*

- Acknowledge the acceptance of increased risk (depleted workforce and increased call volume).
- Review state and local regulations and emergency orders to:
  - Determine who receives service (visits to home or office by EMS).
  - Determine who does not receive service.
  - Determine how the “worried well” will be referred.
  - Determine who is marginal to receive services.

### Working from home — the ‘what if’ model...

- Define who is eligible to work from home.
- 911 dispatcher/call center manager recovering from virus or staying at home as caretakers.
- If possible, work toward an all-911 dispatch home-based workforce to reduce exposure.

### Calls come in — calls go out

- Prepare a series of statements and be prepared to blast out informational messages to the community via the reverse 911 call system, traditional media, blogs, email lists, social networks, text messaging, etc.

### Prepare for the next wave

- Host or participate in a virtual stakeholders’ roundtable meeting and discuss lessons learned.
- Contact officials in surrounding communities to coordinate efforts and compare notes.
- Continue searching for key partners to bolster infrastructure and resource needs.
- Develop a coordinated call center system if one is not currently available.

### Come out with your hands clean!

- Train staff on infection control.
- Cover your coughs.
- Wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer frequently per CDC guidance.
- Disinfect consoles and related surfaces.
- Use only recommended PPE.

### Fireproof your family

- Recognize that personnel have to take care of their families and plan accordingly.
- Allow appropriate personnel to take the equipment home and possibly even respond from home.
- Encourage personnel at the operations center to communicate with their families when possible to relieve stress.
- Encourage and expand webcam use to enable staff to keep in touch with their families.

### We are all in this together

- If not already required, encourage 100% vaccination for all personnel.
- Vaccinate families if the vaccine is available for them.
- Vaccinate at the dispatch center, EOC or other agency facility while on shift (contact your local public health director or agency to provide vaccines to the station).
- If EMS personnel have authority to vaccinate in your state, coordinate with your EMS medical director to have them do so.
- Develop local incentives for rewarding those who get vaccinated and strongly encouraging those who do not.



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[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## Fallen Heroes Due to COVID-19



Mario Araujo  
Chicago Fire Department  
Truck Company 25

*OSFM sends our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of fallen heroes, Firefighter Mario Araujo and Firefighter Edward Singleton. We stand with our brothers and sisters of the Chicago Fire Department in support and thank you all for what you are doing to keep the citizens of Chicago and Illinois safe during this unprecedented time.*



Edward Singleton  
Chicago Fire Department  
Midway Airport  
33 Years of Service



Robert Reisinger  
River Grove Fire Department  
17 Years of Service

*OSFM sends our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of fallen hero Robert Reisinger. We stand with our brothers and sisters of the River Grove Fire Department in support and thank you all for what you are doing to keep the citizens of River Grove and Illinois safe during this unprecedented time.*

## OSFM Employees Giving Back During COVID-19 Pandemic



*OSFM Arson Special Agent Bob Dunn, took a day off from his daily duties to help serve 1500 meals to 125 quarantined residents in Taylorville.*



Randy Carben, Petroleum and Chemical Safety Inspector. "We have made this an evening project around the house for the family. The Palos hospital contacted my wife to make washable masks for the employees. We also have our son in the U.S. Marine Corp in Japan, and they have no masks over there! So, we are making masks for the Marines and sending them to our son, Major Carben. This should keep us busy as we are making 100s of masks. The goal is to make 500 masks for the Palos hospital."



## IFSI Minute

### ILLINOIS FIRE SERVICE INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
 11 Gerty Drive  
 Champaign, IL 61820  
 217-333-3800

[fsi.illinois.edu](http://fsi.illinois.edu)



A quick update on the status of the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI):

#### COURSE DELIVERY:

All in-person training and education scheduled to take place through 15 May has been cancelled. However, IFSI continues to lead the nation with the delivery of training and education opportunities to first responders utilizing online platforms. The following is the upcoming virtual delivery schedule:

#### Cornerstone Virtual Training (Two sessions offered for each topic):

• Fireground Communication	May 4	6pm – 8pm	May 9	10am – 12pm
• Rural Engine and Tender Ops	May 26	6pm – 8pm	May 30	10am – 12pm
• Fire Ground Search and Rescue	June 8	6pm – 8pm	June 13	10am – 12pm
• Basic Company Officer	June 22	6pm – 8pm	June 27	10am – 12pm
• Thermal Imaging	July 6	6pm – 8pm	July 11	10am – 12pm
• Responder Intervention Team	July 20	6pm – 8pm	July 25	10am – 12pm
• Tactics and Strategy	August 3	6pm – 8pm	August 8	10am – 12pm

#### Facebook Forum – Live Training Broadcasts:

- Rural Command April 30 6:30pm
- Roof Operations: Milwaukee Cut May 5 1pm
- Pump Operations May 13 1pm

We will continue to run the live Facebook Forum feeds and will announce future topics and broadcast dates on the IFSI social media pages

#### MOVING FORWARD:

Regional Representatives, Program Managers, and Program Directors are working closely with leadership and functional support activities to ensure IFSI is ready when face-to-face training resumes. An IFSI working group is developing policy and procedures that address measures that will be put in place to ensure our students and instructors are as safe as possible when training and education does start up again.

The 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire College and the Illinois Firefighter's Association (IFA) Down and Dirty Training Weekend will be delivered the same weekend in Champaign. Fire College has been rescheduled for October 1-4, 2020. IFA Weekend will take place October 2-3, 2020.

The University of Illinois/Champaign County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) continues to operate out of the IFSI Learning, Resource, and Research Center. Selected IFSI staff are in direct support of this effort.

Under the direction of our IFSI Research team, IFSI has supported the development of the State of Illinois Exposure Reduction Training Project. This joint agency effort launches 1 May and has been a collaborative effort with our partners OSFM and MABAS.

We are grateful for the strong team of professionals that continue to support our mission: *Helping Firefighters Do Their Work Through Training, Education, Information, and Research*, despite the uncertain times.

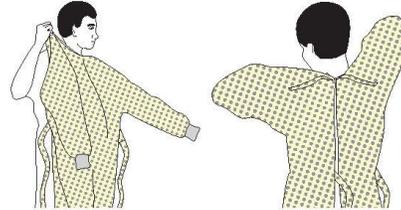
## PPE Guidance for Putting On

### SEQUENCE FOR PUTTING ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The type of PPE used will vary based on the level of precautions required, such as standard and contact, droplet or airborne infection isolation precautions. The procedure for putting on and removing PPE should be tailored to the specific type of PPE.

#### 1. GOWN

- Fully cover torso from neck to knees, arms to end of wrists, and wrap around the back
- Fasten in back of neck and waist



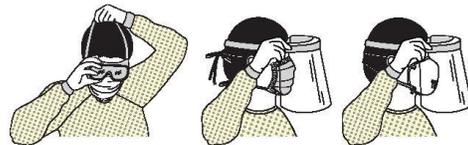
#### 2. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Secure ties or elastic bands at middle of head and neck
- Fit flexible band to nose bridge
- Fit snug to face and below chin
- Fit-check respirator



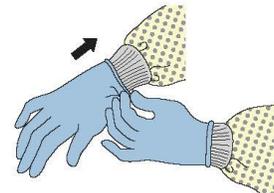
#### 3. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Place over face and eyes and adjust to fit



#### 4. GLOVES

- Extend to cover wrist of isolation gown



### USE SAFE WORK PRACTICES TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CONTAMINATION

- Keep hands away from face
- Limit surfaces touched
- Change gloves when torn or heavily contaminated
- Perform hand hygiene



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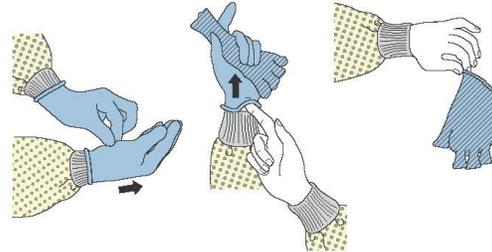
## PPE Guidance for Removing

### HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EXAMPLE 1

There are a variety of ways to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. Here is one example. **Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room** except a respirator, if worn. Remove the respirator **after** leaving the patient room and closing the door. Remove PPE in the following sequence:

#### 1. GLOVES

- Outside of gloves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during glove removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Using a gloved hand, grasp the palm area of the other gloved hand and peel off first glove
- Hold removed glove in gloved hand
- Slide fingers of ungloved hand under remaining glove at wrist and peel off second glove over first glove
- Discard gloves in a waste container



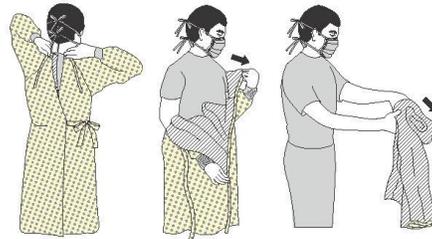
#### 2. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during goggle or face shield removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remove goggles or face shield from the back by lifting head band or ear pieces
- If the item is reusable, place in designated receptacle for reprocessing. Otherwise, discard in a waste container



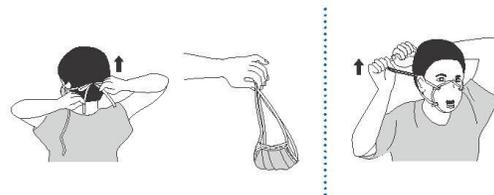
#### 3. GOWN

- Gown front and sleeves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during gown removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Unfasten gown ties, taking care that sleeves don't contact your body when reaching for ties
- Pull gown away from neck and shoulders, touching inside of gown only
- Turn gown inside out
- Fold or roll into a bundle and discard in a waste container

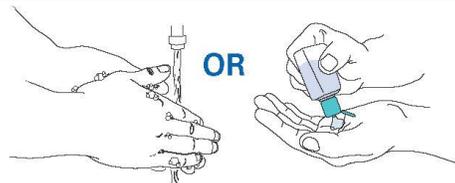


#### 4. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Front of mask/respirator is contaminated — DO NOT TOUCH!
- If your hands get contaminated during mask/respirator removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Grasp bottom ties or elastics of the mask/respirator, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front
- Discard in a waste container



#### 5. WASH HANDS OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE



**PERFORM HAND HYGIENE BETWEEN STEPS IF HANDS BECOME CONTAMINATED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE**



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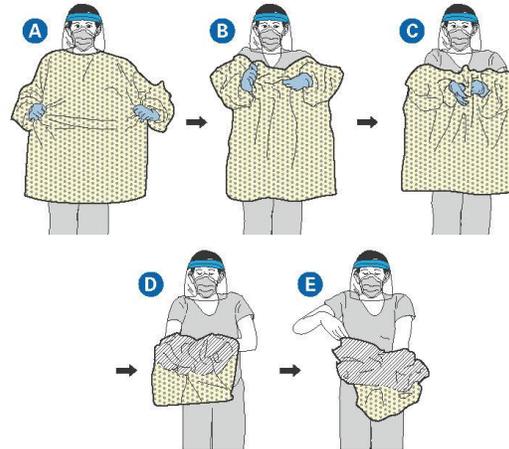
## PPE Guidance for Removing

### HOW TO SAFELY REMOVE PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) EXAMPLE 2

Here is another way to safely remove PPE without contaminating your clothing, skin, or mucous membranes with potentially infectious materials. **Remove all PPE before exiting the patient room** except a respirator, if worn. Remove the respirator **after** leaving the patient room and closing the door. Remove PPE in the following sequence:

#### 1. GOWN AND GLOVES

- Gown front and sleeves and the outside of gloves are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during gown or glove removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Grasp the gown in the front and pull away from your body so that the ties break, touching outside of gown only with gloved hands
- While removing the gown, fold or roll the gown inside-out into a bundle
- As you are removing the gown, peel off your gloves at the same time, only touching the inside of the gloves and gown with your bare hands. Place the gown and gloves into a waste container



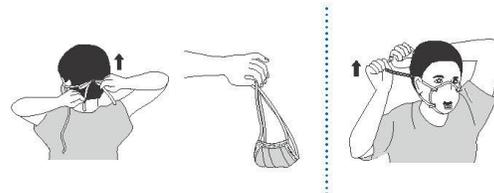
#### 2. GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELD

- Outside of goggles or face shield are contaminated!
- If your hands get contaminated during goggle or face shield removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Remove goggles or face shield from the back by lifting head band and without touching the front of the goggles or face shield
- If the item is reusable, place in designated receptacle for reprocessing. Otherwise, discard in a waste container

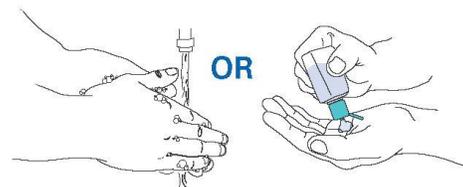


#### 3. MASK OR RESPIRATOR

- Front of mask/respirator is contaminated — **DO NOT TOUCH!**
- If your hands get contaminated during mask/respirator removal, immediately wash your hands or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Grasp bottom ties or elastics of the mask/respirator, then the ones at the top, and remove without touching the front
- Discard in a waste container



#### 4. WASH HANDS OR USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE



**PERFORM HAND HYGIENE BETWEEN STEPS IF HANDS BECOME CONTAMINATED AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER REMOVING ALL PPE**



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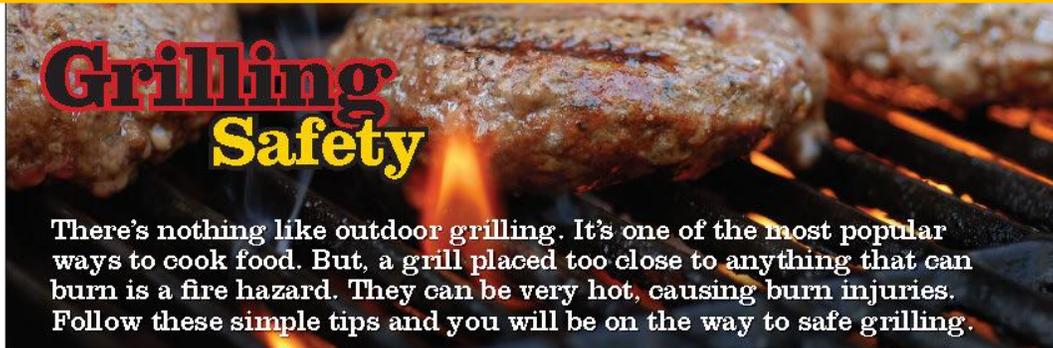
## Certification Testing Update

*The OSFM Division of Personnel Standards and Education tentatively plans to resume paper testing at regional examination sites in May.*

*Pearson-Vue, vendor that does electronic testing for OSFM, also plans to begin testing on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Login and frequently check the [PSE WebAccess Portal](#) for more information and the latest update.*

## Grilling Safety

The weather is warming up and that means it's grilling season again! It's important to do a complete check of the grill, make sure hoses don't have any cracks leading to gas leaks, and ensure the grease tray is cleaned out. As the stay-at-home continues, use this time to conduct safety checks around the house that you may not have normally had time to complete.



There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

### SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

### CHARCOAL GRILLS

- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

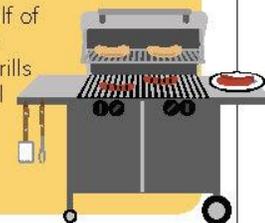
### PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least **5 minutes** before re-lighting it.

### FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



**NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**  
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



## Home Office Safety



# ELECTRICAL SAFETY

## While Working From Home

Do you have a **home office** or **work from home**? Follow these **electrical safety tips** to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.



- 

**1** Avoid **overloading outlets**.
- 

**2** **Unplug appliances** when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.
- 

**3** **Regularly inspect** electrical cords and extension cords for damage.
- 

**4** Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary basis**.
- 

**5** Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.
- 

**6** Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.
- 

**7** **Plug in smartly**. Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.
- 

**8** Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet away** from space heaters and other heat sources.
- 

**9** Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.
- 

**10** Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

**Wherever you work, it's always important to be safe.**


[www.facebook.com/ESFI.org](https://www.facebook.com/ESFI.org)

[www.twitter.com/ESFI.org](https://www.twitter.com/ESFI.org)

[www.youtube.com/ESFI.org](https://www.youtube.com/ESFI.org)

Home offices have been busy with activity for the past month due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Take a few minutes and conduct an electric and fire safety evaluation. Follow the 10 steps provided above so you can rest assured you have a fire-safe environment. Rest assured that when you arrive after your short commute, you will have a safe and comfortable work environment!

# Face Coverings

 State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Public Health

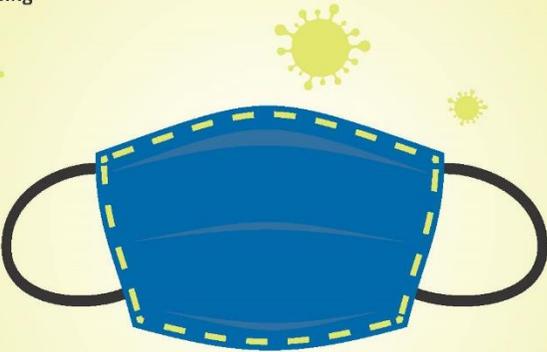
## COVID-19 Face Covering Do's & Don'ts

**DO:**

- ✓ Make sure you can breathe through it
- ✓ Wear it whenever going out in public
- ✓ Make sure it covers your nose and mouth
- ✓ Wash after using

**DON'T:**

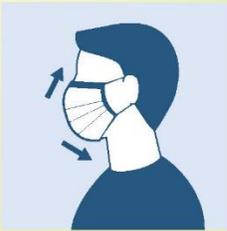
- ✗ Use on children under age 2
- ✗ Use surgical masks or other personal protective equipment (PPE) intended for health care workers



**How to Wear a Cloth Face Covering**

Cloth face coverings should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- include multiple layers of fabric
- allow for breathing without restriction
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape



*Face coverings can help prevent the spread of COVID-19. If you plan to leave home to head to the store, pharmacy or any other essential activities, make sure to wear a mask.*

*Firefighters are contracting COVID more from contact around the fire house from fellow firefighters than contact by working in the community. Make sure you wear a mask when around your colleagues in the firehouse while continuing to practice social distancing. It's important to remember; your mask protects me, and my mask protects you.*

*Do your part and wear a mask and encourage everyone in your department and family to follow these guidelines. We will get through this!*



Questions about COVID-19?  
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov)  
Illinois Department of Public Health - [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)  
Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois • 4/15/20 IDCI20-673

 **MY MASK PROTECTS YOU, YOUR MASK PROTECTS ME**

If you have to leave your home, you should wear a mask or cloth face covering.



Wear a mask to:

- The grocery store
- The pharmacy
- Work at an essential business

coronavirus.illinois.gov

## OSFM Shout Outs/Kudos

Dale,

*I just wanted to send you a note about a few individuals who have been very supportive during these times. We have an Agency filled with very competent and compassionate individuals, who during difficult times like this go above and beyond to keep the machine running as smoothly as possible. With that said, I would like to let you know that Kerry Loman has been one of those individuals that continues to be a critical factor in the success of many of our Special Agents. I can't speak for them; however, she has continued to be very supportive and patient with me as we sometimes struggle to keep all this computer equipment working properly. She is an Asset to our Organization and especially our Division. I always said to our IT Reps that if you had a laptop that caused a fire, we could probably tell you how it started. On the other hand, if you had a laptop that would not allow you to log in, I was unable to do my job. JC Fultz is another individual who came to this Agency not so long ago and has been successful in keeping our members connected. During these challenging times, with staff located across the entire State of Illinois, JC has been very successful in allowing our members to get to know one another even though many of us have never met in person. I think we are fortunate to have him and look forward to working with him in the future. Lastly, I want to say thank you to our Administrative Staff from Terry to you and all the way up to Matt and in-between. You guys have been very informative, supportive and involved in our efforts to keep this Organization moving forward and running as smoothly as possible.*

*OSFM Arson Special Agent Greg Castronovo*

*Dale, I wanted to share some positive feedback I received from the GC at DHS regarding the emergent CILA inspections that the Fire Prevention Division were tasked with. I know you (and others on the Exec Staff) did a lot of work to get procedures in place, procure PPE, and provide detailed information about expectations to DHS as well as OSFM staff. While there were some bumps in the road with respect to initial referrals to OSFM, as demonstrated by this feedback, your efforts have certainly paid off. Matt Taksin- OSFM General Counsel*

*Matt,*

*I had just wanted to say thank you to you and the OSFM team re: our CILA fire-inspections. I know that several have already taken place. It's very, very much appreciated. I hope you're otherwise hanging in there.*

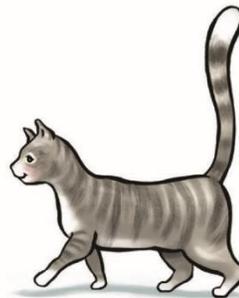
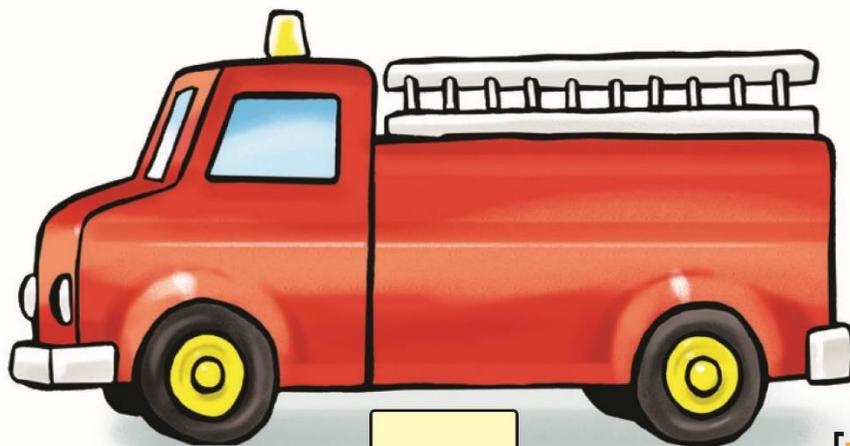
*John Schomberg- IDHS General Counsel*



# Kids' Corner - Homeschool Fire Safety Lesson

## Measuring Up!

**Directions:** Cut out the ruler, measure each item, then write how many inches tall it is.



### Measuring Challenge:

Cut out the ruler on page 2 and see how far you should stay away from the stove when a grown-up is cooking.



THE NAME AND IMAGE OF SPARKY ARE TRADEMARKS OF THE NFPA.

# Kids' Corner – Homeschool Fire Safety Lesson

## Sparky Spies Spring!

I love spring. The world around us wakes up from winter and starts to change and grow. Be a detective and see how many of these things you can find outside...and find some of your own!



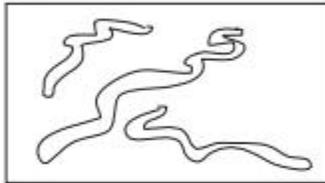
THIS MONTH'S  
COOL-TO-DO...



### My Spy Spring List:

1. Worms

Date \_\_\_\_\_



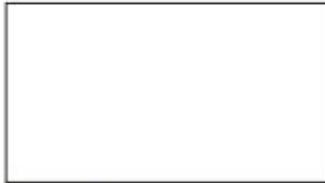
2. Number of Your House

Date \_\_\_\_\_



3. Mud Puddle

Date \_\_\_\_\_



4. Bird Nest

Date \_\_\_\_\_



5. Outside Meeting Place

Date \_\_\_\_\_



6. Fire Hydrant

Date \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



8. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



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