



## Joint Labor Management Committee State of Illinois

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March 18, 2020

The Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) comprised of the leadership from Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois (AFFI) and the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA) have been in communication to provide key **recommendations for full-time career fire departments** in response to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). We strongly encourage collaborative efforts between labor and management as we navigate through this rapidly changing environment. There are many resources and recommendations from the CDC and IDPH that fire departments may utilize to remain up to date on COVID-19. Fire department labor and management leadership are strongly advised to take a proactive approach to discuss and implement policies and procedures to address the following key considerations from the JLMC. *Again, these are recommendations provided to you for guidance. Fire Departments must work with their local government management team to provide solutions for their community.*

Please refer to the attached COVID-19 decision tree to assist in situations where a response crew treated a suspected COVID-19 patient. It is vitally important that all responders take steps to protect themselves. Wearing proper PPE for suspected patients is a **MUST**. Consideration should be given to wearing this enhanced PPE for **all** responses during this highly contagious period. Guidance indicates significant protection by wearing proper PPE, even when not treating a COVID-19 positive patient. An exposure occurs when a responder does not have the proper PPE in place.

If fire service personnel are potentially exposed to COVID-19 they should be quarantined either in their house or according to other pre-designed plans. It is strongly suggested that management and labor work on a plan to house quarantined personnel if they are not comfortable going home. This may be considered on a local or regional basis.

If a responder tests positive for COVID-19 it is recommended that the Fire Chief immediately consider quarantine of other firefighters that were in close contact with the responder who tested positive. It is incredibly important to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The plan to quarantine firefighters should be a collaborative effort between labor and management, determined well in advance and widely distributed to the members of the Fire Department.

These are *recommendations* that both organizations feel should assist in beginning the important discussions of how our firefighters are taken care of in a time of an unprecedented illness. It is important that the leaders of the fire department and the leaders of the local labor unit work together to ***plan for this event*** and ***ensure the health of the firefighters and their families*** while continuing to ***provide essential services to the community***.

The IFCA and AFFI also will coordinate with MABAS and other stakeholders in the very near future to discuss mobility needs and staffing should some departments experience high numbers of quarantined or isolated firefighters.

**Please remember that these are only recommendations and a basis for discussion between labor and management. Please take the time to plan before your organization is placed in a situation that requires action.**

The following links for further updated guidance as this continues to evolve. Please work through your respective organization's leadership (AFFI or IFCA) to assist you with further questions or concerns.

Fire Chiefs COVID-19 information <https://www.iafc.org/docs/default-source/1ems/covid-response-and-planning-recommendations.pdf>

AFFI COVID-19 information <https://www.affi-iaff.org/covid19/>