

# BEST PRACTICES

for Systematic Cleaning and Disinfecting Ambulances and Emergency Response Vehicles

BEST



High  
Hazard  
Exposure likely

- Remove vehicle from service after patient is transferred to hospital
- Wearing PPE, seal off patient compartment from cab if possible
- Clean cab before returning to quarters wearing PPE, if safely done
- Return to headquarters and isolate the vehicle

## 2-STEPS CLEANING + DISINFECTION REQUIRED

### STEP 1

- Remove all items from the vehicle
- Remove PPE that was used during return to headquarters
- Using gloves, goggles and masks, clean all the equipment with chemicals that are safe for the equipment being cleaned (not all chemicals are appropriate for every application)
- Clean all horizontal and vertical surfaces

### STEP 2

- **UV-C** disinfection should be used in both patient and driver compartments **OR**
- Fogger, ionizer and spray application

**CAUTION:** A 2-step process of cleaning + disinfecting is the only way to reduce the likelihood of additional exposure to other patients and staff. Terminal cleaning significantly reduces that likelihood.

### Not all UV-C is created equal.

Power, proximity, distance and angle to surface are factors affecting **UV-C**. Be sure your **UV-C** is efficacy tested and proven (third party lab tested).

BETTER



Moderate  
Hazard

Unknown exposure  
pathogen

- Clean any surface exposed to organic matter
- Wipe/spray hard surfaces with disinfectant
- Chemical application should have < 2 minute dwell time
- Use Quaternary Ammonia (similar) cleaner on floors
- Consider (second step) 254nm **UV-C**, air purification, electric-static and fogger

**CAUTION:** Without additional steps in cleaning, patient-to-patient and patient-to-rescuer disease transfer is possible.

**Recommendations:** Understanding cleaning agents is essential in pre- and post-patient care preparations. Protecting first responders is the highest priority. Ventilation, safety equipment and environmentally friendly products can assist in keeping everyone safe.

Two steps of cleaning is much more effective in protecting everyone.

**Clean + Disinfect = Protect**

GOOD



Low  
Hazard

Exposure unlikely  
Rapid turn-around

- No signs patient is contagious or of infectious disease
- Cross ventilate
- Wear appropriate safety equipment
- Wipe/spray hard surfaces with disinfectant
- Chemical application should have < 2 minute dwell time
- Concentrate on high-touch surfaces and adjacent horizontal surfaces

**CAUTION:** 50% effectiveness is achieved when only using chemicals to clean (N.L. Havill, 2013), with 34-36% of targeted surface being missed.

**Recommendations:** Read directions of all chemicals. Dwell time (wet time) is very important when properly cleaning and disinfecting. Limit exposure of chlorine and ammonia-based products and never mix products. When available, it is always recommended to use a secondary process.

## CAB

### FRONT

Remove all equipment

Confirm adequate cleaning

**UV-C**  
or  
FOG cab

## PATIENT COMPARTMENT

### BACK

Remove all equipment  
patient compartment  
cabinets

Heavy cleaning  
all surfaces

**UV-C**  
or  
FOG  
compartments  
and box

+ DETAILED CLEAN + DISINFECT

### FRONT

Sweep + mop floors

Dashboard

Door panel

Use 2nd source of cleaning at ER if possible

### BACK

Sweep + mop floors

All horizontal surfaces in open area

Any equipment used on patient  
O2 bottle, monitor etc

Sharp container

Empty garbage

+ CLEAN + DISINFECT

### FRONT

Steering wheel

Door handles

Levers

Switches

Knobs

Seatbelts

Radio(s)

### BACK

Stretcher

Mattress

Restraints

Railings

Handrails

Handles

+ CLEAN

(Apply disinfectants in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Follow contact times and safety precautions.)



Contact us for more information:

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