

7 Vehicle Cleaning and Materiel Stowage

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7.1 Purpose and Expected Results

Patient and public confidence is fundamental to public support. One element of confidence building is the appearance of Squad vehicles both inside and outside. A tidy and clean appearance indicates care, pride, and good maintenance.

Efficient patient care requires ready access to equipment and supplies. Neat and consistent stowage provides for sure and quick access.

A clean and sanitary vehicle contributes to prevention of spreading:

- Infection by communicable disease
- Injury from hazardous substances.

7.2 Circumstances of Applicability

Use of a vehicle or materiel carried thereon.

7.3 Requisites

- Cleaning equipment and materials
- Equipment or supplies requiring stowage
- Appropriate personal protective equipment
- Proper disposal facilities
- One of:
 - Use of a vehicle on a call
 - Elapse of sufficient time
 - Use of a vehicle such that contamination by an infectious agent or hazardous material is likely or suspected
 - Discretion of the responsible officer or crew-chief.

7.4 Procedure Description

Upon returning a vehicle to service, the Squad member in charge of the call just completed shall delegate tasks to the attending crew for the cleaning of the vehicle and stowing of equipment and supplies in their proper place. The following items are for guidance. All tasks are to be accomplished; who does them is at the discretion of the Squad member in charge.

Scheduled, periodic, or *ad hoc* cleaning and sanitizing is to be done at the direction of the Captain or Squad officer designated by the Captain.

07 Cleaning

7.4.1 Routine Cleaning and Sanitizing

7.4.1.1 Exterior

The duty crew will attend to the exterior appearance and exterior accessed compartments:

- The chassis, windows, and lights, are to be clean. (Caution to be used when washing chassis in extreme cold weather conditions)
- The compartments must contain their designated items cleaned and stowed in neat and orderly fashion.
- The Oxygen bulk tank pressure should be at least 500 psi.

7.4.1.2 Interior

Using due caution and accepted infection control procedures, the medical personnel will attend to the interior appearance and interior accessed compartments:

- The cot is clean and made up. (Normally the cot is made up at the hospital by the duty crew.)
- The floor and walls are clean.
- The shelves are clean and tidy and contain only their designated items stowed in a neat and orderly fashion.
- The compartments must contain their designated items cleaned and stowed in neat and orderly fashion.
- None of the waste containers (regular and bio-hazard) are full.
- None of the sharps containers are full
- Items that have been in contact with a patient (such as stethoscope, blood-pressure cuff, and splinting or backboard equipment) are appropriately cleaned or sanitized.

Ambulance Deep Cleaning and Sanitizing: On a quarterly basis, and after a call during which contamination by an infectious agent or hazardous material is likely or suspected, each ambulance shall be deeply cleaned. Using due caution with appropriate and accepted infection control and hazardous material handling procedures, the cleaning and sanitizing shall include, but limited to:

7.4.1.3 Exterior

- Clean the chassis, windows, and lights
- Sanitize all handles
- Any compartments accessed during a call during which contamination may have occurred must be emptied and cleaned along with the contents
- All compartments must contain their designated items cleaned and stowed in neat and orderly fashion

07 Cleaning

7.4.1.4 Interior

Using care not to contaminate other areas, in the patient compartment:

- Remove:
 - Cot
 - All items from all compartments and work surfaces
 - Removable seats
- Clean and sanitize as appropriate:
 - All handles, knobs, switches, or other hand controls
 - Ceiling
 - Walls and doors
 - Compartments and work surfaces
 - Floor
 - Window and compartment glass
 - Cot (including structure)
 - Equipment and supplies. (Dispose of contaminated supplies that cannot be cleaned or sanitized.)
 - Removable seats

Similarly, any and all bags or kits that were exposed must be emptied, and the container and contents cleaned and sanitized.

Return all patient compartment items to their designated location and perform and inventory.

Using care not to contaminate other areas, in the driver's compartment:

- Remove and clean as necessary all portable paraphernalia (portable radios, map books, lifting belt, vests, etc).
- Clean and sanitized as appropriate all handles, knobs, switches, and steering wheel
- Vacuum and clean head-liner, carpet, seats, dash, and door-liners
- Clean window glass
- Clean door (if any) separating driver and patient compartments

7.4.2 Non-transporting EMS Vehicle Deep Cleaning

On non-transporting EMS vehicles such as 2051, deep cleaning shall be as described for the ambulance deep cleaning of exterior and driver's compartment (above). In addition, clean and sanitize as appropriate:

- Equipment and supplies (Dispose of contaminated supplies that cannot be cleaned or sanitized.)
- Any and all bags or kits.

Return all items to their designated location and perform and inventory