



GLASTONBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES



SOG NUMBER: PER-004

ISSUED DATE: 09-30-20

EFFECTIVE DATE: 09-30-20

REVISION #:

REVISED DATE:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

CATEGORY: PERSONNEL

SUB-CATEGORY: PERSONNEL SAFETY

SUBJECT: TICK MANAGEMENT AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Section I – Introduction

A. Objectives

To provide guidance for members about how to decrease the risk of Lyme disease in individuals who may be potentially exposed on the job to Lyme disease-causing ticks. Preventing tick bites also prevents other tick-borne diseases, including babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, tularemia, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

B. Applicability

This Guideline applies to Glastonbury Fire Department personnel who may be dispatched to locations that contain high grass or thick brush that ticks favor, such as lost person searches or brush fires.

C. References

Town of Suffield Fire Department – authorized by Chief Charles Flynn

Section II – Responsibilities

It will be the responsibility of Glastonbury Fire Department members to take these precautions when operating in a tick friendly environment. Although tick habitat should be avoided or cleared where possible, there are some job duties where this is not possible. The probability of tick bites can be decreased by using personal protection. Several measures have been recommended for personal protection, and have been used successfully.

Section III – Guidelines:

- Wearing light-colored clothing so that ticks can be more easily seen and removed before attachment occurs;
 - Wearing long-sleeved shirts and tucking pant legs into socks or boots to prevent ticks from reaching the skin;
 - Wearing high boots or closed shoes that cover the entire foot;
 - Wearing a hat;
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- Spraying insect repellents (containing n,n-diethylm-toluamide [DEET]) on exposed skin, excluding the face, in accordance with EPA guidelines. Using permethrin on clothes to kill ticks on contact;
- Showering, and washing and drying clothes at a high temperature, after outdoor exposure;
- Checking the body carefully for ticks; once found, promptly removing them with tweezers. (Grasp the tick firmly and as close to the skin as possible. With a steady motion, pull the tick's body away from the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic. DO NOT use petroleum jelly, a hot match, nail polish, or other products to remove the tick.)
- Any member who incurs an imbedded tick shall notify their officer and complete an approved first report of injury form.

Section IV - Approval

Fire Chief 

Date of Approval: 9/30/20