



AIR TRANSPORT
DISTRICT LODGE 142



EBOLA VIRUS UPDATE

October 18, 2014

As concerns mount around Ebola issues we want to provide you with a recap of the IAM's involvement to protect you from possible exposure.

Both the Flight and Ground Safety Committees have been directly involved with our employers to discuss their preparedness plans as well as current policies and procedures to not only protect the flying public, but the safety and health of our members. This includes direct communication and participation in a number of Ebola specific conference calls with the medical department, emergency preparedness directors and senior management. These discussions and conference calls are ongoing as new information is available almost daily.

We expressed a number of concerns and action is being taken to address those concerns. We have also communicated with our Local Safety Committees with additional information to be shared with our members as well as answering many questions and addressing specific concerns from our members.

On October 17th the IAM participated in a conference call hosted by the AFL-CIO, Transportation Trades Department along with representatives from AFA, TWU, ALPA, Professional Aviation Safety Specialist (PASS) National Air Traffic Controllers Association and various representatives from other aviation industry unions to discuss the Ebola crisis. Concerns relative to the various airline job responsibilities were discussed.

It was agreed that a protocol needs to be in place with the various workgroups for their airlines. Personal protective equipment (PPE) along with effective policies and procedures need to be provided to the work group on a consistent basis.

Crewmembers and Gate Agents need a protocol in place to properly handle a passenger with a contagious disease along with appropriate protections.

Currently the travel ban for passengers from the infected countries in Africa is gaining steam. Also an Ebola Tsar has been named. AFL-CIO, TTD will be arranging a meeting with the newly appointed Tsar to discuss these concerns, in particular those of the front line- flight attendants and ground workers, both customer contact and non-customer contact.

Also discussed were cleaning procedures (or lack of) of the aircraft and in particular after having sick passengers on board that vomit. An effective blood borne pathogen-cleaning procedure should be in place for all workers.

The IAM will continue to monitor and work towards the safety of their members, being a very active participant to ensure that our employers support their employees in the protection of possible exposure to blood borne viruses including Ebola.

Please continue to reach out to your Ground or Flight Safety Committee if you have questions concerning your on the job protection.

As this crises continues to unfold we will likely learn more about this deadly virus and how to effectively protect ourselves, there are some basic precautions that you should take:

- Know and understand your company's policy on protection from blood borne pathogens and **follow the policies**. Don't take short cuts "to get the airplane out"
- The most important thing is to provide a barrier between any bodily fluid exposure and yourself. Gloves (double gloving in some cases may be recommended), eye and face protection and in some cases, disposable coveralls and booties should be worn when needed.
- After use it is important to safely remove all PPE so that no parts of the body come in contact with any exposed PPE. (The CDC has a very good chart to provide guidance as referenced below)
- **Good personal hygiene is also very important**. After removing PPE or with any possible exposure to bodily fluids, always wash your hands and any other exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water. Remove any contaminated clothing. Use of hand sanitizers (60% or more of alcohol) can be used when water is not readily available. It is always a good idea to wash your hands as soon as water is available.
- PPE is provided by your employer. Know what is available, keep it handy and especially – USE it when necessary!
- Use the proper disinfectant that is approved for use on the aircraft or ground facilities and follow the directions as most disinfectants require a dwell time on the surfaces to be effective prior to wiping off.

Your employer has probably provided bulletins and other alerts concerning the Ebola outbreak. The CDC (Center for Disease Control), OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and WHO (World Health Organization) all have a lot of current info on the Ebola virus. Take a few moments to review:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/ebola/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/ebola/en/>

Here are a couple of publications that you might find helpful and good to share with your fellow members:

<http://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/air/managing-sick-travelers/ebola-guidance-airlines.html>

www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppeposter8511.pdf

Fraternally,



David Supplee
President/Directing General Chair