



Office of the City Auditor

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 26, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor

Subject: Audit: Emergency Medical Personal Protective Equipment

RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Manager to report back by March 2008 regarding the implementation status of each of the City Auditor's recommendations in the attached report, and every six months thereafter, until all recommendations have been implemented.

SUMMARY

An audit of Emergency Medical Personal Protective Equipment was performed in the Fire Department. The purpose of the audit was to determine if policies and procedures were in place to provide reasonable assurance:

1. Medical personal protective equipment (PPE) for emergency medical staff (EMS) was available.
2. Medical PPE was worn when appropriate.

Audit fieldwork began on March 6, 2007, and concluded on April 12, 2007. The audit report contains three findings and four recommendations. The audit found that the Berkeley Fire Department appeared to be providing EMS staff with appropriate medical PPE. However, EMS responders were not always donning some types of medical PPE when appropriate

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Care was taken to make audit recommendations that appeared to be cost effective to implement.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The review identified the following concerns:

- EMS responders were not always donning (putting on) some types of medical PPE when appropriate. The PPE that Fire staff reported most frequently not donned when appropriate were medical goggles and TB masks. Several reasons why were given, including a lack of enforcement by officers and some concerns with the fit of medical goggles.

When medical responders do not wear medical PPE when appropriate, there is increased risk these employees will be exposed to blood and to other potential infectious materials while performing their occupational duties. (Finding 1)

- A comprehensive daily medical PPE supply checklist to help ensure staff belt packs, ambulances, and apparatus were adequately stocked with all appropriate types of medical PPE was not available. This may have contributed to medical PPE not always being readily available to EMS staff. (Finding 2)
- A lack of established, adequate, medical supply inventory policies and procedures was a concern. It appears some of the current and planned procedures could increase the risk that Fire stations or main inventory may run out of a medical PPE item. (Finding 3)

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachment:

1. Emergency Medical Personal Protective Equipment Audit Report