

FIRE FIGHTERS GUIDANCE NOTE # 2-5

ISSUE: DESIGNATED OFFICER PROGRAM FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Communicable Disease Protocol developed by the Public Safety Services Liaison Committee was distributed under covering letter to be inserted in the Fire Service Health and Safety Information (Section 21) Binder in January 1995.

All Fire Departments are required to implement the Communicable Disease Protocol for Emergency Workers in their respective workplaces after consultation with the local Medical Officer of Health.

The Communicable Disease Protocol is under the authority of the Health Protection Act. As well, employers should implement this protocol in their workplace under Section 25(2)(h) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act "take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of a worker:"

When selecting a Designated Officer under the protocol, the Fire Service Health and Safety Advisory Committee recommends that:

- The selection of the Designated Officer(s) should be made in consultation with the workplace Joint Health and Safety Committee.
- Fire Departments should develop Operational Guidelines and/or Policy that outline how firefighters can contact Designated Officer(s) on nights, weekends and holidays.