

A **65 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while working as the Fire Chief. The facility conducts firefighting operations and responds to medical calls to assist in lifting fallen patients and other routine assistance.

According to information gathered, the victim responded to a call with another firefighter on 12/11/20 as part of a routine medical call. The employees were in close proximity in order to help lift the fallen patient and they were wearing required personal protective equipment. It was later discovered that this patient had been positive for COVID-19.

It was determined during the investigation that the employer is following current CDC guidelines for protecting employees against COVID-19. The general public was not allowed to enter the fire station to prevent employees from coming into contact with people unnecessarily. The employer mandated face coverings for its employees anytime they are inside the facility, around other workers, or on response calls.

According to employees in interviews, the employer provides surgical masks and gloves that can be taken as needed. The employer also conducted COVID-19 awareness training and implemented additional cleaning protocols for wiping down the building and common areas between each shift.

According to the employer, on 12/15/20, the firefighter who accompanied the victim from the call on 12/11/20 tested positive, but the victim did not show symptoms until he was hospitalized on 12/23 /20 for what was determined to be COVID-19. The employee passed away in the hospital on 1/13/21.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

No citations issued.

Covid-19---Insp #1544443 Rocky Top-Fire Dept.

