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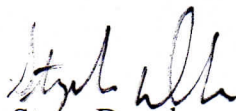
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## Effective Infection Control Programs

As part of our continuing efforts to combat and control the spread of contaminants and infectious diseases, Caldwell Fire & Rescue has adopted the use of several different strategies that provide us with a multi-layered approach for dealing with infectious substances. For many years, we have used Body Substance Isolation Procedures when dealing with patients. Unfortunately, our system left out an important part, our station. Crews return from calls, wash their hands, and decontaminate their equipment but that is where the system started to fail. Like many agencies, our personnel wear the same footwear on calls as they do around the station. This leaves an important avenue for cross contamination unaddressed. We encourage them to wear comfortable "house shoes" while in the station, but we do not require them to switch footwear. Over time, people fall back into old routines and they forget or decline to swap their shoes out.

Last year we contacted the designer of the *GERMINATOR*, a new product that allows us to address contaminated footwear and cross contamination of the living areas. We currently use multiple *Germinators* system in each station to help eliminate tracking contaminants throughout the work and living areas. Pads are conveniently placed so returning crews can use them before returning to living and working areas. Additionally, we have installed a pad near the administrative offices for staff and visitors to use.

We are pleased with the ease of use and the rapid customer services Daren Mizner of the *Germinator* afford us. As a comprehensive plan to address cross contamination and reducing infectious exposures, we find the *Germinator* an important part of our system.

  
Steve Donahue  
Deputy Chief

