



WORCESTER FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 1009

International Association of Fire Fighters

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International Association of Fire Fighters
Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts

March 20, 2020

Brothers & Sisters,

As the situation around the globe unfolds and the stress it has on our personal and professional lives mounts, the Local would like to provide some information to ease some of those tensions. Circumstances have been changing on a daily and even hourly basis but this will hopefully serve as a general status as of today. More specifics can always be obtained through the Executive Board and the chain of command.

First, Local 1009 has been in constant contact with the Chief and the Deputies throughout this crisis. We have been working on all of our needs and concerns with the administration, city, state, and federal leaders. Our efforts address all aspects of our involvement with this pandemic and our priorities are focused on the health and safety of our fire fighters and our families.

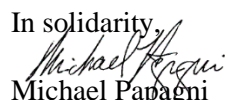
The status of our resources is of great concern and is constantly being addressed. Appropriate PPE, including masks of various types including N95s, eye shields, and gloves are on the apparatus and although limited, there are reserve supplies of all of those pieces of PPE. PPE gowns have been on order and we continue to wait for that supply. Disinfectants, antibacterial solutions, soap, and station cleaning supplies have been distributed and also have limited reserves.

The protocols for our response to all emergency calls as it is set out in the COVID 19 Guideline has been a collaborative work with Local 1009 and the administration. The protocol will continue to change with the circumstances of this situation. Local 1009 will continue to advocate for our collective health and safety.

Concerns regarding exposures, priority testing, and guidance for those being quarantined are being address as the situation evolves. Testing has begun at a facility in Shrewsbury that is in part dedicated to our first responders and we are consulting the medical director about best practices and PPE for those who will be at home quarantined so that all our families are protected.

We acknowledge the strain this puts on our loved ones at home and please let us know if you have needs that are not being met. Although we are all practicing social distancing, please look out for each other as we always do, in any way you can.

On behalf of the Executive Board, thank you as always for your professionalism and dedication to this job, this city, and this union.

In solidarity,

Michael Papagni
President