

A **54 year old male** employee contracted **COVID-19** while serving as a police dispatcher. The facility conducts law enforcement operations and responds to emergency and law enforcement dispatch calls for the city.

According to information gathered, two employees of the Fire Department responded to a call as part of a routine medical call. The employees were in close proximity in order to help lift the fallen patient but claimed they were wearing required personal protective equipment. It was later discovered that this patient had been positive for COVID-19. The two employees of the Fire Department interacted with the victim, as dispatchers often gave the firefighters information on what time a call was received and other pertinent information.

One of the firefighters who was exposed on a medical call on 12/11/20 tested positive on 12/15/20. On 12/14/20, the victim had interacted with that employee. The victim tested positive when first admitted to the hospital on 12/22/20 and was released on 12/27/20 but re-admitted on 1/1/21. The victim passed away on 1/19/21.

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 police 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.

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 #1544448 Rocky Top-Police Department

