

# SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

## Standard Operating Procedures

**90.05.03**  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS,  
NEWBORN INFANT  
TRANSFER AT FIRE STATION



Adopted: 12/20/16  
Reviewed: 11/09/22  
Revised: 11/09/22

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Behr", is written over a horizontal line.

**Purpose:** To guide personnel through the incident of a newborn transfer at a fire station.

**References:** Newborn Safety Act, RCW 13.34.360

**Procedure:**

1. Pursuant to the Newborn Safety Act (RCW 13.34.360), fire stations are designated as an “appropriate location” under Washington law for a parent to transfer her newborn in lieu of leaving the newborn in an unsafe place. The parent who transfers the newborn (*less than 72 hours old and not appearing to have been intentionally harmed*) to a qualified person at a fire station is not subject to criminal liability. The Fire District’s primary concern is the safety of any infant, child, or adult patient.
2. Steps.
  - a) If a parent wishing to leave a newborn at a fire station approaches any Fire District employee, the employee will immediately bring the newborn, with the parent if possible, inside the fire station.
    - i. Obtain the *Newborn Infant Transfer at Fire Station Packet (pink cover sheet)* located in the station office and follow the enclosed instructions.
    - ii. Notify the on-duty 820 officer.
    - iii. Transfer newborn and paperwork (including the run report and the “*Form A*” *Parent Interview Packet*) by ambulance to the nearest hospital emergency department for observation/treatment, or while awaiting Child Protective Services (CPS).
    - iv. Report incident to CPS as soon as possible at 509-363-3333 Monday through Friday, 0800 to 1700, or 1-800-562-5624 after hours and weekends.
  - b) If it is determined that the infant is not a newborn under the statute, law enforcement shall be notified immediately.