



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

October 27, 2008

Agenda Item No. **36B**

Roll Call No. **08-**

Communication No. **08-632**

Submitted by: **Phillip C. Vorlander.**

**Chief of the Fire Department**

## AGENDA HEADING:

Annual contract for the provision of medical examination–personal protection equipment (PPE) gloves for the Des Moines Fire Department (DMFD).

## SYNOPSIS:

Recommend awarding an annual contract with two (2) additional one year renewal options to furnish nitrile medical gloves for the Des Moines Fire Department to the low compliant bidder, Firstline Gloves, Inc., 95 Los Padres Way, Suite 1, Buellton, CA 93427.

## FISCAL IMPACT:

Amount: \$32,340

Funding Source: 2008-2009 Operating Budget, Page 164, Emergency Medical Services, FIR041000, 532390

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Invitation to Bid V09-27 for the provision of nitrile medical gloves for the Des Moines Fire Department was sent to nine (9) potential bidders. Three (3) bids were received and Firstline Gloves, Inc., 95 Los Padres Way, Suite 1, Buellton, CA 93427 was the low compliant bidder.

National Fire Protection Association Standard 1999, Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations establishes the minimum performance requirement for emergency medical service examination gloves. Additionally, all compliant emergency medical examination gloves must be Class 1 Medical Devices and must meet the requirements of 21 CFR 880, “Medical Devices: Patient Examination Glove.” The performance requirements for emergency medical examination gloves include the following parameters: liquid-tight integrity, biopenetration resistance, puncture resistance, soluble latex protein content, dexterity, and ultimate elongation and tensile strength.

Bound Tree Medical LLC did not submit any test, performance or compliancy data with their sample box of Mircoflex gloves. Bound Tree Medical LLC was contacted by the Des Moines Fire Department to offer them the opportunity to submit the information required in the specification, but none was received; consequently, it cannot be verified that their gloves meet any of the requirements set forth in our bid specification. The bid submitted by Bound Tree Medical LLC is not compliant and, therefore, was excluded from consideration.

Heiget Safety Supply provided a bid proposing High Five Integra EC gloves. Their bid did not include any test, performance or compliancy data and they did not provide the sample gloves for the field test as required in the bid specification. DMFD contacted the vendor to request sample gloves for the field tests and the test, performance, and compliancy data. We received a case of sample gloves and some of the requested data by virtue of an Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and an email. High Five Integra EC gloves do not comply with the following components of the bid specification:

- The High Five gloves are not compliant with the NFPA 1999 Standard on Protective Clothing for Emergency Medical Operations, 2008 edition.
- The vendor did not provide any 3<sup>rd</sup> party test data to ensure compliancy with the performance or certification tests. We did give them the benefit of the doubt and accepted information supplied via their MSDS and email.
- High Five gloves report an Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) of 1.5 in the watertight test. This test is used to detect pinholes in the gloves, which is considered one of the most important aspects in determining the level of protection afforded to the wearer. An AQL of 1.5 equates to 14 failures out of 500 gloves, which is twice the rate allowed in our bid specification.
- For quality assurance purposes, our specification requires that the date of manufacture and shelf life is printed on each box of gloves. The boxes of High Five gloves submitted for the field test did not have the date of manufacture or shelf life labels on them.

Firstline Gloves Inc. provided a bid, case of sample gloves, and a technical data packet that included test, performance, and compliancy data. The Firstline Intercept gloves proposed by the vendor are compliant with NFPA 1999, 2008 edition. Based upon the technical data and 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing documentation that was submitted with the bid, the DMFD was able to verify that the gloves meet or exceed all performance, testing, and certification requirements. The DMFD requires all personnel to wear gloves (in conjunction with other body substance isolation precautions) for the purpose of protecting them from potentially infectious materials including blood, amniotic fluid, saliva, human waste, and other bodily fluids. The Firstline gloves are the only product that is fully compliant with our bid specification. The Chief of the Fire Department and the Procurement Administrator recommend awarding a contract for the provision of medical examination-PPE gloves to Firstline Gloves Inc.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION(S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION(S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS: NONE**

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