



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Bloodborne Pathogens

Controlling Exposures

Why are we here?

- OSHA Blood Borne Pathogen standard:
 - anyone whose job may include possible BBP exposure.
 - CPR trained & first aid
 - First responder or emergency response
- More you know, better protection & others

Definition

- Bloodborne Pathogens
 - Pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood or other potentially infectious materials and can cause disease in humans.
- Pathogens include but are not limited to:
 - Hepatitis B
 - HIV – human immunodeficiency virus

Common BBP Diseases

- HIV: leads to AIDS, depletes immune system, does not survive well outside the body.
- Hepatitis B (HBV): most common occupationally acquired infection, attacks liver, survive 7 days in dried blood.
- Hepatitis C (HCV): most chronic BBP infection, lead to chronic liver disease.

Why the Concern?

Hepatitis B

HIV/AIDS

Osha estimates 5.6 million workers in health care and other facilities are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens such as Human Immunodeficiency (HIV) and hepatitis B (HBV).

Potentially Infectious Body Fluids

- Skin tissue
- Tobacco juice
- Blood
- Saliva
- Vomit
- Urine
- Semen/Vaginal secretions
- Other body fluids

What would you do? and what would other employees do?

- Employee falls, sustains cut to scalp – fair amount of bleeding.

Occupational Exposure

- ...reasonably anticipated contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties.
- Duties may include:
 - Environmental Services
 - Laboratory
 - Waste Management

Routes of Transmission

- Contact with another persons blood or bodily fluid.
- Mucous membranes: eyes, mouth, nose.
- Non-intact skin.
- Contaminated needles, sharps, materials.

Your Exposure Potential

- Accident/emergency response
- First Aid
- Cleaning restrooms
- Removing trash
- Cleaning spills (body fluids)

Methods of Compliance

➤ **Standard (universal) Precautions**

- ...**shall** be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials.
- ...**all** body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious materials.

Universal Precautions

- Use proper PPE
 - Proper cleanup
 - Proper disposal of contaminated material
- Purpose is to eliminate/minimize exposure.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Anything use to protect a person from exposure.
- Gloves
- Goggles
- CPR masks
- Aprons
- Respirators
- Shall be used where exposures remains after institution of engineering and work practice controls.

PPE Rules to Remember

- Always check PPE for defects or tears.
- If torn, get new ones.
- Remove PPE prior to leaving work area.
- Do not reuse disposable equipment.
- Wash hands immediately after removing PPE.
- If soap/water is not available, use hand sanitizer.

Housekeeping/Environmental Services

- Worksite maintained in clean and sanitary condition.
- Cleaning and decontamination of items.
- Safe disposal.

Regulated Waste

- Contaminated sharps discarding and containment:
 - Approved sharp containers
 - Easily accessible
 - Upright
 - Not allowed to overfill
 - Container removal
 - Close immediately prior to removal
 - Place in secondary container if leakage is possible
 - Reusable containers
 - Not opened, emptied, or cleaned manually

Regulated Waste

- Other regulated waste containment:
 - Closeable, constructed to contain all contents, labeled or color-coded, closed prior to removal.
 - If outside contamination of the container occurs, it shall be placed in a second container.
- Disposal of all regulated waste shall be in accordance with applicable regulations.

Contaminated Laundry

- Shall be handled as little as possible:
 - Bagged or containerized at the location where it was used.
 - Containers labeled or color-coded.
 - Leak proof bags or containers.
- Employer shall ensure that employees who have contact with contaminated laundry wear protective gloves and other appropriate PPE.
- Shipping to an off-site facility.

Signs & Labels

- Labels must include the universal biohazard symbol and “Biohazard; must be attached to:
 - containers of regulated biohazard waste
 - refrigerators or freezers containing bodily fluids
 - containers used to store/transport/ship blood



Exposure Incident

- A specific incident of contact with potential infectious bodily fluid.
- Report all accidents involving blood or bodily fluids.
- Post-exposure medical evaluations are highly recommended.
 - Document route of exposure
 - Identify source
 - Test individuals blood (w/consent)

How to report a stick

➤ <https://www.uah.edu/legal/injuries>

Recordkeeping

➤ Training Records

- Shall be maintained for 3 years from the date of training.
- Dates of training.
- Contents of training.
- Signed acknowledgement of training.

Why do we not have 100% compliance?

- Lack of training
- Busy, hectic, rushing
- Decreased awareness of hazards
- “won’t happen to me....”

In Summary

- Definition and scope.
- Standards relating to Bloodborne Pathogens.
- Employer responsibilities.

***Think Safety
Not Just Compliance!***

Acknowledge Training

[Click here to acknowledge receipt of training](#)

If you have any questions contact:

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