

SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Bloodborne Pathogen Awareness

While bloodborne pathogens are not usually a major concern on a job site, it is still important that employees understand basic cautions and procedures in a first-aid situation. Knowing how to be safe around blood and other potentially infected material is important for your own health as well as that of your fellow employees.

Bloodborne Basics

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms that are present in blood and can cause diseases. Some well-known examples of bloodborne pathogens include human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and Hepatitis B and C. Bloodborne pathogens can be life-threatening.

Assume It's Infected

The simplest way to protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens is to treat all blood as possibly infected. Even if you know a coworker very well, you should not assume that you are aware of whether they are carrying any bloodborne pathogens.

In order to prevent infection or spreading of bloodborne pathogens in the workplace, all employees should follow universal precautions, such as:

- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, safety glasses or masks.
- Clean up any blood present in the workplace with chemicals or cleaning products that will adequately kill the microorganisms responsible for bloodborne pathogens.
- Store needles and other sharp objects that could pierce PPE or your skin inside FDA-approved sharps containers.
- Use warning labels for containers carrying regulated waste or sharp objects.

Responding to Injuries

Use universal precautions when attending to any bleeding wound on another person. Assume that bloodborne pathogens could be present.

- Have the worker apply bandages to control bleeding for minor injuries. If needed, provide assistance.
- Wear disposable gloves and try to avoid contact with any blood or body fluids on the person or their clothing.
- If disposable gloves are not readily available in an emergency, use your work gloves, a clean towel, or newspaper to prevent contact with blood or body fluids.
- When finished with treatment and clean up, carefully remove your gloves to avoid touching the glove's contaminated exterior.
- Thoroughly wash your hands immediately after removing your gloves.
- If you do get blood or body fluids on your skin, immediately wash the contaminated areas with soap and water. Use an emergency eyewash to thoroughly flush any contamination from your eyes or mouth.
- Report any exposure incidents to your supervisor or medical department.

