

# **WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING**

## **BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS**

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### **PROTECTING AGAINST BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS**

#### **WHAT ARE BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS?**

They are microorganisms in human body blood or body fluid that cause disease in humans. The three blood borne pathogens that have received the most attention and pose a serious health threat if contracted, are the hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV) which causes a severe form of Hepatitis in some or acts as a carrier in others; and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS.



#### **METHODS OF TRANSMISSION:**

Blood borne pathogens are usually transmitted or passed on when disease organisms enter the body through mucus membranes or through breaks in the skin. While intact skin offers some protection against blood borne pathogens, they may be transmitted through the breaks in skin via accidents, injuries or burns. They may also enter the body through open cuts, nicks, skin abrasions and cracked skin caused by various types of dermatitis. At work, the most common exposure to blood borne pathogens could occur when an infected worker has an injury causing direct exposure to human blood and the person who comes to help them is not wearing the proper personal protective equipment or practicing universal precautions.

#### **UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS**

Universal precautions is a method of infection control in which all blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other blood borne pathogens. Universal precautions are to be observed in all situations where there is a potential for contact with blood or other potentially infectious material. Personal protective equipment should be used in conjunction with universal precautions when dealing with all body fluids.

Qualified, trained first-aiders should be equipped to safeguard against this exposure. You should be aware that there is a good possibility that you may have small nicks or cuts on you from daily work activities and jobs tasks. These nicks and cuts, in addition to your mouth, nose and eyes are examples of possible entry-ways for blood borne pathogens, present in the injured person, to enter your circulatory system.

## **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

Personal protective equipment, which includes latex or vinyl gloves, gowns, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, and face masks can significantly reduce the health risks for workers exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials. The PPE must be suitable for the level of expected exposure and should be readily accessible to employees and available in appropriate sizes. Employees should be trained on the proper use of PPE and how to respond effectively and safely to an injury.

## **OSHA'S BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN STANDARD**

OSHA's Blood borne Pathogen Standard, 29 CFR Part 1910.1030, sets forth requirements to protect workers from occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens. The standard covers all employees, who could be reasonably anticipated as the result of performing their job duties, to face contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials. OSHA has not attempted to list all occupations where exposures could occur, however designated first aid providers are, in most cases, covered by the standard. Citations can be issued based on the current standard or under the "General Duty Clause" because the employer has not provided a workplace free from recognized hazards.

The standard requires employers to establish a written exposure control plan which we provide in the Environmental Safety & Health Manual, which would identify workers with occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious material and specify means to protect and train them. The standard calls for engineering controls such as; work practice controls such as hand washing to reduce contamination; and personal protective equipment such as latex and vinyl gloves. There are also requirements in the standard for housekeeping procedures and clean up of potentially hazardous material, signs, labels and containers, etc.

Anytime you see the sign below, you know that the material is hazardous:



# BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

## LEADERS GUIDE:

- Blood borne pathogens: Microorganisms in blood and body fluids that can cause a serious health risk.
- Most common way to transmit disease at work place is through coming in contact with blood or body fluids without any protection.
- Treat all potential contact with blood and body fluids as if it is known to be infected.
- Use proper PPE in all cases to reduce health risks

## LEADERS QUIZ & (ANSWERS):

1. What are blood borne pathogens? **They are microorganisms in human body blood or body fluid that cause disease in humans**
2. List as many methods of transmission as you can think of? **Blood borne pathogens are usually transmitted or passed on when disease organisms enter the body through mucus membranes or through breaks in the skin. While intact skin offers some protection against blood borne pathogens, they may be transmitted through the breaks in skin via accidents, injuries or burns. They may also enter the body through open cuts, nicks, skin abrasions and cracked skin caused by various types of dermatitis. At work, the most common exposure to blood borne pathogens could occur when an infected worker has an injury causing direct exposure to human blood and the person who comes to help them is not wearing the proper personal protective equipment or practicing universal precautions.**
3. What can you do to prevent infection? **Personal protective equipment, which includes latex or vinyl gloves, gowns, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, and face masks can significantly reduce the health risks for workers exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials.**
4. Do you know where latex or plastic gloves are located at your job site? **First Aid Kit**

# BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

## QUIZ:

1. What are blood borne pathogens?
2. List as many methods of transmission as you can think of?
3. What can you do to prevent infection?
4. Do you know where latex or plastic gloves are located at your job site?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Safety Training Roster

Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Topic: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

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