KELLER'S 5-MINUTE WORKPLACE SAFETY TALKS



Bloodborne Pathogens—An Overview

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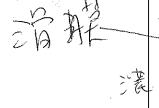
Overview Of Topic

Bloodborne pathogens are microorganisms present in human blood which can cause disease in humans, such as hepatitis B virus (HBV) and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard requires the employer to prepare a written exposure control program. The standard mandates that the plan evaluate routine tasks and procedures in the workplace that involve occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials; identify workers performing such tasks; and use a variety of methods to reduce the risks.

Infectious Materials

Under the OSHA rule, blood means human blood, blood products, or blood components. Other potentially infectious materials include human body fluids such as saliva somen, vaginal secretions; cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritofical, and amniotic fluids; any body fluids visibly contaminated with blood; unfixed human tissues or organs; and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body



Occupational Exposure 在 藏 风流

fluids.

All persons with a potential for exposure must be provided with adequate training and information including general explanations 155 4 300 of the modes of transmission, symptoms, epidemiology, warning signals related to general exposure, and procedures to follow if exposure occurs.

Occupational exposure means a "reasonably anticipated skin, eye, mucous membrane, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of the employee's duties." 19641

Employee Training

Training must include appropriate methods for recognizing tasks that may involve exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and the use and limitations of practices that would reduce exposure, including engineering controls, work practices, and personal protective equipment.

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Training sessions must be comprehensive, conducted by a person knowledgeable in the subject matter, and provide an opportunity for a question and answer period.

Training Tips

Review the requirements of §1910.1030. You may wish to choose one topic and prepare a 5 minute "review" session, or prepare a comprehensive training program containing all of the required topics. Training topics should include:

- An accessible copy and explanation of §1910.1030. Tell the employees where the copy is kept;
- A general explanation of the epidemiology and symptoms of bloodborne diseases;
- An explanation of the modes of transmission of bloodborne pathogens;
- An explanation of the written exposure control plan and how to get a copy;
- An explanation of how to recognize events that may involve exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials;
- An explanation of types, selection, proper use, location, removal, handling, decontamination, and disposal of personal protective equipment;
- An explanation of the use and limitations of safe work practices, engineering controls, and personal protective equipment;
- Information on hepatitis B vaccination, such as safety, benefits, efficacy, and availability;
- An explanation of the procedures to follow if an exposure occurs, including methods of reporting and the medical followup that will be made available;
- Information on post exposure evaluation and follow up;
- An explanation of information on the warning signs, labels, and color coding.

Where To Go For More Information

29 CFR 1910.1030—Bloodborne pathogens.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Here's the "need to know" about the hazards of touching Blood and Bodily Fluids.

You can catch a lot of things from spilled blood and bodily fluids – but the biggies are HIV and Hepatitis B.

It doesn't have to be red to be dangerous – color doesn't matter – clear, brown, red, vomit / + = if it's a bodily fluid – and it isn't yours – consider it dangerous.

FAQ's -

Q: Is dried blood safe?

A: NO, NO, NO, NO! Hepatitis can live in dried blood for at least 7 days. I've heard as many as 20 days.

Q: Does my healthy, intact skin help protect me?

A: Yes, healthy, intact skin is an effective barrier. But, don't count on it—think about your cuticles, cuts, age cracks, scabs, razor burn, pimples, mucous membranes, etc.

Q: What's a "mucous membrane" A: Your eyes, nose, mouth, inner ears, and your "privates". These areas are susceptible to pathogens, germs, etc. Do remember your Mom saying "don't put that in your mouth - or

you don't know where it's been"? Moms are smart.

Q: What are "Universal Precautions"?

A: Because we don't know which spills of body fluids are infectious – we assume that ALL body fluid spills contain pathogens, and we protect ourselves accordingly. This concept is called "Universal Precautions".

Q: OK, so I see some blood droplets on the floor. What do I do?

A: Keep people from tracking them all over. Keep people with bare hands from attempting to clean up the spill. Call your trained spill control team to clean up the spill. They will use gloves, face shields, and 10% bleach solution to clean up the spill. WFM sites have blood spill cleanup kits. Don't let someone with a bare hand and a paper towel wipe up blood.



Q: I've been trained to pick up blood spills. I'm still worried about catching something. A: My advice, is go slow. Remember your training. Wear your barriers (gloves, face shield, etc). Take your time, and think about what you're doing. Remember – there has to be something bad in the blood to begin with – which is rare. And, it has to get through your skin barrier – not easy to do. So the odds are greatly in your favor. We do the training and provide the equipment to keep TM's from "bare handing it".

Q: What should I do if I get blood/body fluid on my skin?

A: Wash with soap/water asap. Then use hand sanitizers (or alcohol) if available. Then report the incident to your TL. We have a report to fill out, and we will offer you a Hepatitis B vaccination (series of 3 shots). The vaccination is very effective, and it is your choice. You may want to consult with your doctor.

Q: OK, say someone cuts themselves. I learned in First Aid training that we're supposed to apply "direct pressure" to stop the bleeding. How do we do that without getting exposed?

A: You can have the injured person apply pressure to their own wound. Or, we have plastic gloves (and gauze) in our first aid kits, blood spill kits, and all over the stores. In a pinch, we have plastic bags in our waste baskets, on loaves of bread, empty bag of chips, etc. Stop the bleeding asap, they'll take care of any infection at the hospital.

Q: I'm not worried, because I can tell just by looking at someone if they have HIV, or Hepatitis.

A: No you can't.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Safety Training Handout

What are bloodborne pathogens?

Pathogenic microorganisms such as viruses or bacteria that are present in human blood and can cause diseases in humans. These include: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B (HBV) and Hepatitis C (HCV)

How are they transmitted?

Through contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials that enter the bloodstream

What are potentially infectious materials?

- Blood
- Vaginal secretions, joint fluid, lung fluid, and other bodily fluid
- Unfixed tissue or organs from a human being whether living or dead, other than intact skin
- Any bodily fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood
- Bodily fluids where it is impossible to differentiate and identify the precise bodily fluids

How can you be exposed to a bloodborne disease?

- Infectious materials enter your body through open wounds, new cuts, broken skin and through the mucous membranes of your eyes, nose and mouth
- Exposure incidents can occur during accidents, while providing first-aid, when

How can exposure be prevented?

- Universal Precautions: Treat all blood and bodily fluids as if they were infectious
- Personal Protective Equipment: Minimize exposure by wearing gloves, splash goggles, resuscitation masks, and other barriers when there is a risk of exposure Remove PPE prior to leaving work area and place PPE in proper containers. Do not reuse disposal PPE
- Spill cleanup: Disinfect all areas where bodily fluids have spilled and place clean-up materials in proper containers
 - Proper Waste Disposal: Label all waste with proper biohazard labels or deposit in red, leakproof containers or bags
- **Proper handling of contaminated laundry:** Pre-soak all contaminated laundry, use PPE, Kkeep handling to a minimum

What should I do if I believe I've been exposed?

- Wash the exposed area immediately with antibacterial soap and running water-
- If fluids enter eyes or nose, flush with running water for at least 15 minutes
- Immediately report incident to supervisor
- You will receive post-exposure evaluation and follow-up which includes a confidential medical evaluation and blood testing

