Bloodborne Pathogens

There are over 100 types of bloodborne pathogens, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites, that can be present in the blood or body fluids of infected humans. Although the two most publicized are the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the hepatitis B or HBV virus, others are also dangerous, such as malaria, syphils, Lyme disease, and the Epstein-Barr virus.

If blood or other bodily fluid comes in contact with your eyes, mouth, skin, mucous membranes or through a needle stick, immediate action is required. Washing exposed area thoroughly, reporting the incident to your supervisor and seeking medical attention are all required actions.
What To Do If You’re Exposed

- Always assume blood is infectious.
- Avoid contact with potentially infectious material.
- Follow all infection control protocols.
- Wear your personal protective equipment—always.
- Follow good hygiene—frequently wash hands.
- If you must handle a sharp object, use equipment such as forceps.
- Report any exposures immediately to your supervisor.
- Decontaminate surfaces and materials that have been used to handle, store or temporarily place objects that may have come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious (PIM) body fluids. Apply disinfectants (e.g. chlorine bleach solution, Lysol or other EPA-recommended disinfectant) on tools and surfaces. Observe proper precautions when discarding regulated wastes, contaminated sharps and containers.

Action Items

For employees’ awareness and protection, OSHA requires employers to have an Exposure Control Plan (Bloodborne Pathogen Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030). Employers should develop an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to potentially infectious body fluids.

Resources and References:
- CIRMA Bloodborne Pathogens: http://cirma.ccm-ct.org/Pages/bloodbornepathogensdesc.aspx

For more Tailgate Talks, Safety Briefs or more information about the Connecticut Technology Transfer Center, visit us at: www.T2center.uconn.edu

Adapted from the Cornell Local Roads Program—New York LTAP Center’s Everyday Safety Tailgate Talk
BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Universal Precautions for those exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials in their occupation.

Wear the right equipment:
- Lab coats, aprons, gowns.
- Face masks, face shields, gloves.

Know your colors:
- Red bags or containers do not need to be labeled. Their color indicates they may contain biohazards.
- Fluorescent orange-red labels and signs with contrasting lettering or symbols are appropriate.

Read all labels and signs:

Follow proper disposal procedures:
- Contaminated laundry and personal protective equipment should be disposed of in properly designated areas.

Proper procedure can reduce the risk of infection to zero:

Protect yourself:
- All blood and body fluid must be treated as if it is infectious.
- Hepatitis B virus (HBV); human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV can cause AIDS.
- Other bloodborne pathogens found in human blood which can cause disease.

Make sure you know:
- Vaccination requirements.
- Proper reporting requirements for incidents of exposure.

Dispose of needles in appropriate containers:
- Never recut, bend, or break needles.

Wash hands:
- And follow safe hygiene and work practices.
Tailgate Safety Talk Sign In Sheet

Topic: **Bloodborne Pathogens**

Agency: ____________________________________________________

Crew: _______________________________________________________

Supervisor/Talk Leader: _______________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print Name</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>