

Blood Borne Pathogens

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Introduction

Before anyone responds to any incident, especially where bodily fluids are present, employees must keep their own safety in mind.

Without proper training, you may put yourself at risk.

Training Objectives:

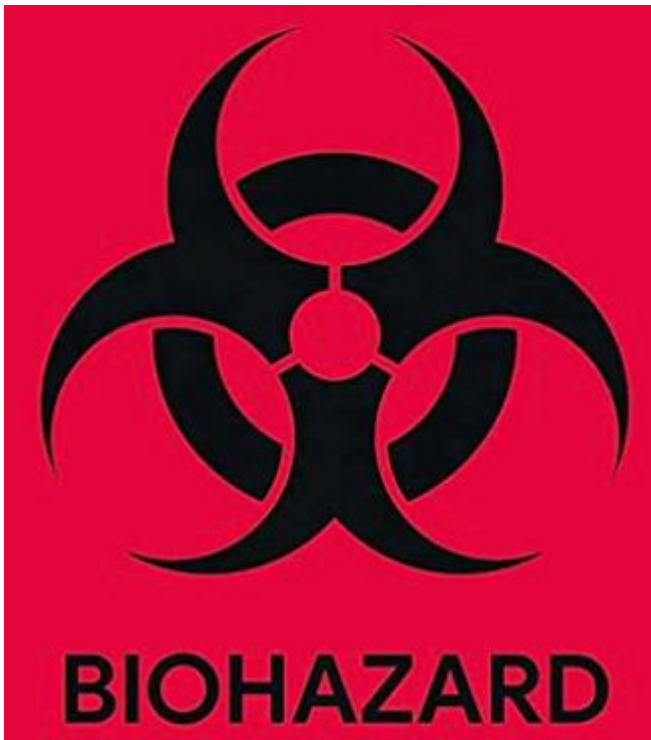
- Define what a bloodborne pathogen (BBP) is.
- Describe how BBPs are spread.
- Explain what preventative measures should be taken to prevent transmission.
- Discuss how to respond to emergencies where BBPs may be present.
- Identify what to do in the event you are potentially exposed to a BBP or other potentially infectious material (OPIM).

Definition

Pathogens are viruses, bacteria or other microorganisms that live in blood and can cause diseases.

Biohazards

- Be aware of the biohazard label. It indicates items contained within may have BBPs or OPIMs.



Risk

Anytime you come across someplace where another person's blood is present.

Examples:

- The floor;
- On a desk;
- On a tool;
- Anyplace blood is present.

Risk

- Potential infection can occur:
 - When aiding a bleeding person;
 - Cleaning up blood;
 - Cleaning tools or other equipment;
 - Handling potentially contaminated objects.

Carriers

- Any person can be a carrier of a BBP, and you wouldn't know it. **THEY** may not even know it.
- There's no way to tell if you've been infected unless you get tested.

Protect Yourself

- Utilize the universal precaution thought process:
- **Treat all blood and OPIM as if they are infectious!**

Natural Routes of Entry

We all have natural routes of entry where BBPs can get into our bodies.

- Eyes
- Nose
- Mouth
- Open cuts or other openings in skin

Potential Methods of Transmission

- A direct splash of blood or other bodily fluids into the eyes, mouth, or nose.
- An opening in your skin, such as a cut, scab or rash.
- The potential for exposure exists:
 - When cleaning a blood spill, even dried blood.
 - When handling contaminated sharp objects such as broken glass.
 - Providing first aid to a patient.

Control Measures

- Follow control measures to reduce your risk.



Engineering Controls

Engineering controls are designed to reduce risks by removing or isolating the hazard or isolating the person from the hazard.

Example: Puncture-resistant sharps disposal container.



Work Practice Controls

Procedures designed to protect persons from exposure.

Examples:

- Regularly washing hands thoroughly;
- Routinely disinfecting work surfaces.

Personal Protective Equipment

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is given to employees to protect you from certain hazards.
- PPE is safety's last line of defense to protect you. When given to you, use it!

Gloves

- Disposable gloves are your first line of defense against BBPs.
- Your hands are the most likely part of your body to come in contact with another person's blood.
- Any break in your skin such as a paper cut, scratch, or even a hangnail can become a route of entry.



Glove Management

- Inspect gloves before putting them on. Ensure there are not any holes or other signs of damage.
- Take care to not tear the gloves while putting them on.
- Remove the gloves as soon as they become contaminated. Dispose of contaminated gloves in a biohazard bag, and wash hands immediately.

Proper Disposal

- Dispose of any biohazardous materials in marked bags or containers.
- When cleaning up after an incident, never pick up broken glass, metal shavings, or any other sharp item – even if you're wearing PPE.
- Place sharp items in appropriately marked sharps container.
- To either have biohazardous materials removed, or to ask for additional biohazard bags, contact the Environmental Life Safety Office at Facilities.

Proper Cleanup

- If you are designated to clean up, do not mop up where blood has been, as you may only spread it.
- It is safer to use an absorbent.
- After all liquids have been absorbed, dispose of all cleanup materials properly in biohazard bags.
- Thoroughly decontaminate the area with appropriate disinfectant.

Proper Cleanup

- You must also either dispose of or completely disinfect any tools used in the cleanup process.
- **DO NOT** clean or disinfect anything in a bathroom, breakroom, or kitchen sink where employees are likely to wash their hands, apply makeup, or clean dishes. You could be exposing the next person to use that sink!

Clothing Disposal

- Any blood-stained clothing, shoes, or other fabrics should be removed while still wearing PPE.
- Any blood-stained clothes should be disposed of in a biohazard bag.
- **DO NOT** wash or rinse contaminated articles of clothing, and do not take them home to wash. You could be risking exposure to your loved ones!

PPE Disposal

- Once the decontamination process is complete, remove all PPE while taking care to not touch any part that has been contaminated with blood.
- Place all PPE in a biohazard bag and wash your hands.
- **DO NOT** just throw that bag in the trash, contact the Environmental Life Safety Office at Facilities for proper disposal.

Potential Exposure

Take preventative measures if you believe you have potentially been exposed to a BBP or OPIM.

Hand Washing

Immediately wash hands if exposed thoroughly with soap and water.



Flush any exposure splashes to your nose and mouth with water and flood your eyes with water.



Report the Incident

- It is critical to immediately report the potential exposure to your Supervisor as soon as possible.
- Ensure that the “Green Form” used to report a work related injury is completed.
- Contact the Risk Management Office at 719-520-2262 to report the incident.
- Follow the directions of the Risk Management Office to ensure proper medical follow up occurs.

Questions?