Bloodborne pathogens toolbox talk

29 CFR 1910.1030

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

If a coworker cut their hand badly right now, would you know what to put on before you help them?

Why it matters

Bloodborne pathogens are germs in human blood that can cause disease, such as hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). They can enter your body through a needlestick, a cut or broken skin, or a splash to the eyes, nose or mouth. You cannot tell by looking whether blood is infectious, so the same precautions apply every time.

Key points

1 Know if your job is covered

OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard covers occupational exposure, meaning reasonably anticipated contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials while doing your job (29 CFR 1910.1030(a) and (b)). That can include patient care, assigned first aid, cleaning up blood, or handling used needles and soiled laundry. If that is you, your employer must train you at no cost and during working hours. A written exposure control plan is also required, and a copy must be accessible to employees (29 CFR 1910.1030(c)(1)(i) and (c)(1)(iii)).

29 CFR 1910.1030(g)(2)(i)

2 Use universal precautions every time

Universal precautions must be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. When you cannot easily tell one body fluid from another, treat all body fluids as potentially infectious. In practice, never decide who looks safe: protect yourself the same way with everyone.

29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(1)

3 Put a barrier between you and the blood

If you are covered, your employer must provide appropriate PPE at no cost to you, such as gloves, gowns, face shields or masks and eye protection (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(i)). Wear gloves when you can reasonably expect hand contact with blood, other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes or non-intact skin, and when touching contaminated items or surfaces. Replace disposable gloves when they are contaminated, torn or punctured, and never wash them for reuse (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(ix)(A) and (B)).

29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(ix)

ToolboxKits by ALC Media LLC. Not affiliated with OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Not legal advice.

4 Wash up and take PPE off the right way

Wash your hands immediately or as soon as feasible after taking off gloves or other PPE. Wash blood off your skin with soap and water, and flush splashes to your eyes, nose or mouth with water, immediately or as soon as feasible (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(vi)). Remove all PPE before leaving the work area (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(3)(vii)). Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics or lip balm, or handle contact lenses where exposure is reasonably likely (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(ix)).

29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(v)

5 Handle sharps and spills safely

Do not bend, recap or remove a used needle except in the narrow cases the standard allows, and never shear or break one (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(vii)). Put contaminated sharps immediately or as soon as feasible into a closable, puncture-resistant, labeled or color-coded container that is leakproof on the sides and bottom (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(4)(iii)(A)(1)). Use a brush and dust pan, tongs or forceps for broken glass that may be contaminated, never your hands. Decontaminate surfaces with an appropriate disinfectant immediately or as soon as feasible after a spill of blood (29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(4)(ii)(A)).

29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(4)(ii)(D)

6 Report every exposure right away

A stick or cut from a contaminated needle or other sharp, or blood in your eyes, mouth or broken skin on the job, is an exposure incident (29 CFR 1910.1030(b)). Wash the area and report it to your supervisor right away. After a report, your employer must make a confidential medical evaluation and follow-up immediately available to you. The hepatitis B vaccine series must also be made available at no cost to employees with occupational exposure (29 CFR 1910.1030(f)(1)(i) and (f)(1)(ii)(A)).

29 CFR 1910.1030(f)(3)

Scenario

Picture this: A custodian is emptying restroom trash on the night shift. He pushes the bag down with his hand, and something pokes through the plastic into his palm. Under the sink, he also notices a smear of dried blood. What should he do right away, who should he tell, and how should the area be cleaned?

Crew discussion

1. Which tasks on our job could bring us into contact with blood or body fluids?
2. Where do we keep gloves, face protection, the spill kit and sharps containers?
3. Who do you report an exposure to, and how fast?
4. Where can you find a copy of our exposure control plan?

Bottom line **Treat all blood as infectious, keep a barrier between you and it, and report every exposure right away.**

Free to share and adapt for non-commercial use under the CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0). Credit: ToolboxKits, toolboxkits.com/topics/bloodborne-pathogens/

Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema: Bloodborne pathogens / Patógenos transmitidos por la sangre

Date / Fecha: _____

Trainer / Instructor: _____ Location / Lugar: _____ Company / Empresa: _____

#	Name Nombre	Signature Firma	Company Empresa	Date Fecha
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Trainer signature / Firma del instructor: _____ Time / Hora: _____

ToolboxKits by ALC Media LLC. Not affiliated with OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Not legal advice.