

## SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_ Job No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date Held \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Subject of Meeting PROTECTION FROM BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

To protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens you must first recognize when potential exposure can occur. Exposure is possible whenever contact with body fluids containing blood is possible.

Providing first aid to a co-worker or handling waste soiled with blood or body fluids with blood has the potential to expose a worker to a virus. Saliva or vomit mixed with blood due to an injury may pass to the care giver during CPR.

When handling waste contaminated with body fluids, open skin or cuts caused by sharp objects may allow a virus to pass to the worker. Review tasks performed. Identify actions which may cause contact with body fluids.

Precautions taken should match the potential for contacting body fluids. Although not all body fluids will cause infection, universal precautions can prevent exposure to fluids that on a rare occasion may contain contaminated blood.

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Create a barrier between you and body fluids. Anticipate splashes that may cause open skin or mucous membranes of your body to contact contaminated body fluids or blood. Wear PPE that will cover these areas.
- Be on the lookout for sharp objects or "sharps" (razors, needles, broken glass, etc.). Use caution when cleaning and handling laundry. Sharps may be found dropped in sheets, down drains or other places. Gloves may be used to handle trash bags. In all situations grasp the back and lift away from yourself. Look for objects sticking out.
- Do not handle sharps that are contaminated with blood. Health care workers are not even allowed to recap, bend or break used scalpels and needles. Make sure you dispose of all sharp objects properly with minimal handling. Do not throw them into the regular trash or leave them lying around.
- Dispose of sharps contaminated with blood in appropriate containers. Containers should be puncture-and-leak-proof. Use a secondary container if leakage is possible. Fill no more than ¾ full and tape shut.
- Label containers or objects that may contain infected waste or blood. Containers holding the blood must be labeled with the biohazard symbol. It must be fluorescent orange or red letters in contrasting colors.
- Wash hands and other skin surfaces. Wash hands and other skin surfaces after removing gloves or when contact with contaminated articles occurs. Use soap and water and wash for at least 10-15 seconds.

- Clean, disinfect and sterilize all reusable first-aid equipment. Items (ex. Splints) contaminated with blood should be disinfected before reuse.
- Clean and decontaminate blood spills as soon as possible. Wear gloves to clean up blood. Wipe up blood with disposable towels. Dispose of towels in an appropriate container which is properly labeled.

Use an EPA approved germicide or a mixture of household bleach to clean the area. For large spills use the bleach right out of the bottle. If diluted, use one part bleach to nine parts water. Do not make mixtures before they are needed. Bleach loses its effectiveness if allowed to stand. Use plenty of bleach and allow enough contact time, approximately 20 minutes. Rinse tools with water after disinfecting. Chlorine is corrosive. Wear an appropriate PPE.

- Bag laundry at the location of use and label appropriately. Soiled laundry should be handled as little as possible. Wearing gloves, place soiled laundry and PPE in leak-proof bags. Bags should be labeled with the color-coded biohazard symbol. Clean soiled laundry with detergent in normal laundry cycles (Hot water - 160° F for 25 minutes) according to the manufacturers' instructions. PPE should be cleaned and dried according to the manufacturers' instructions.
- Dispose of waste according to local regulations. Wastes that may pass disease to others are often regulated. Place disposable PPE and other contaminated wastes into appropriate containers and dispose of according to these regulations. Ask your supervisor for assistance.