

Bloodborne Pathogens Field Training

What is a Bloodborne Pathogen: Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms present in blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens can also be found in other bodily fluids. They can carry hepatitis B, hepatitis C, Aids and other serious life-threatening illnesses.

Do you have a potential threat? In our type work we have very limited exposure, but that opportunity is never completely zero. Anytime someone is injured such as being cut or stuck with a nail, blood can be the result. Helping someone with an injury by administering first aid or just cleaning up after an injury accident can expose workers to bloodborne pathogens.

How to protect yourself: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the answer. Our first aid kits have vinyl gloves for your protection. You should always wear latex, vinyl, or nitrile gloves when dealing with body fluids of any type. These gloves should be replaced anytime they are used. Ask safety, call the office, or pick some up at any pharmacy. When you remove the gloves be careful not to touch any area of the glove that has any bodily fluid. Wash your hands thoroughly after you remove the gloves.

Other precautions: Wash your exposed skin after coming in contact with bodily fluids. Use hand sanitizing liquids, Clorox/water mixture or soap and water. Wash thoroughly under your fingernails. If you have a cut, scrape, or open wound of any kind, keep it protected, clean and away from any body fluids.

Treat all body fluids as if they were infectious.

You never know.

What if you are exposed? Call the office immediately. Tell your supervisor immediately. If you are exposed to someone else's body fluids while at work, you should get a post-exposure evaluation and follow-up. These exams are at no cost to the employee.

Check your first aid kits for gloves: Your company first aid kits should be checked often to ensure you have not only gloves but a full stock of supplies to handle any first aid emergency.

