

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

Sometimes the workplace brings surprises when we least expect it. That includes coming in contact with blood or other bodily fluids such as vomit or blood. wants you to be prepared to protect yourself from bloodborne pathogens and other infectious materials that can be hazardous to your health.

Keep Safety in Mind

Blood and body fluids can contain microbes that cause illness and disease when you come into contact with them. This may occur when you're handling and disposing of contaminated trash or waste, or when you're cleaning up after an accident or unusual situation involving bodily fluids.

Here are the top 5 things you need to know about bloodborne pathogens:

1. Training

- Do not clean up a mess involving blood or bodily fluids unless you've been trained on the proper use of PPE.
- Training should include:
 - Modes of transmission.
 - Methods of protection.
 - Use, removal, and disposal.

2. Use PPE

- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). This may include gloves, eye goggles or a mask.
- Always check to make sure the PPE is not damaged before use, and remove it carefully to avoid self-contamination.

3. Clean up process

- Use good work practices and common sense while cleaning up blood and bodily fluids. Try to avoid splashing as you soak them up.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment and surfaces.
- Dispose of contaminants in an approved container.

4. If you're exposed

- Wash the affected area thoroughly.
- Report the incident to your supervisor and receive prompt follow-up care by a medical professional.
- Document what occurred.
- Identify the source, if possible.
- Test your blood for disease.

5. Types of fluid

- Blood
- Semen
- Vaginal secretions
- Cerebrospinal fluid
- Synovial fluid
- Amniotic fluid
- Peritoneal and Pleural fluid
- Any bodily fluid containing blood

Discussion

- 1. When might you encounter bloodborne pathogens (BBP)?**
- 2. Where are the supplies located to deal with BBP?**
- 3. Can anyone share an experience?**

