

BLOOD AND BODILY FLUID SAFETY

*Adapted from "The Safety Pins" by Phillip E. Spiezio, Washington County Safety Officer
Other Sources: OSHA and CDC*



Blood or other bodily fluids may contain bloodborne pathogens, which are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause diseases such as Hepatitis B, C, and HIV. Needlesticks and other sharps-related injuries may expose workers to bloodborne pathogens. Workers, including first responders, housekeeping personnel, nurses and other healthcare personnel, all may be at risk for exposure to blood or bodily fluids.

Washing exposed area thoroughly, reporting the incident to your supervisor and seeking medical attention are all **required actions.**

Here are important things to keep in mind:

ALWAYS ASSUME BLOOD IS INFECTIOUS.

All blood for transfusion is tested for evidence of certain infectious disease pathogens, but it's always safer to assume that any blood could be infected.

FOLLOW ALL INFECTION CONTROL PROTOCOLS.

In an emergency situation involving blood or potentially infectious materials, you should follow Universal Precautions (UP) and Standard Precautions (SP) recommended by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

WASH HANDS AND WEAR YOUR PPE ALWAYS.

Frequently wash your hands, and wear personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection (e.g., goggles), and face shields.

DECONTAMINATE.

Apply disinfectants to surfaces and materials that have been used to handle, store or temporary place objects that may have come in contact with blood.

Standard Precautions include hand hygiene, use of PPE, cough etiquette, safe injection practices, sharps safety, sterilization and disinfection of patient-care items, and environmental infection control.

PLAN OF ACTION

- If you suspect any exposures to infections, immediately report it to your supervisor.
- According to the *29CFR 1910.1030* or OSHA's *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard*, employers should develop an exposure control plan to eliminate or minimize occupational exposure to potentially infectious body fluids.

CDC Blood Safety

<https://www.cdc.gov/bloodsafety/index.html>

OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens and Needle Stick Prevention

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/recognition.html>

OSHA 29CFR 1910.1030 Reference Guide

https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/bloodborne_quickref.html

Tailgate Talk Resources:

NLTAPA <https://nltapa.org/information-exchange/nltapa-tailgate-talks/>

Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org

Louisiana's Tailgate Talk Series

TIMELY SAFETY BRIEFINGS





HOW TO CONDUCT A TAILGATE TALK

Tailgate Talk is a gathering of small group of workers around the tailgate of a truck or other spot for a brief training session on a single safety topic. Consider using the "Tailgate Talk" concept to help you conduct 10-15 minutes of training sessions with your crew.

KEY POINTS:

- Choose one safety topic per session.
 - Be concise. Keep it short.
 - Keep the sessions small.
- Meet in a comfortable & safe spot.
- Allow time for questions & answers.
 - Document the training.

CHOOSE SAFETY TOPICS

- Pick topics related to recent events.
- Ask employees for their ideas.
- Read newsletters and local news for more information. Use them for additional ideas.

PLAN LOGISTICS

- Limit sessions to a small number of workers. Six to 10 is a good number.
- Hold sessions early in the week, but not on Monday mornings.
- Conduct tailgate training sessions an average of once a week. Dedicate specific time for the training.
- Limit sessions to only 15 minutes.
- Be on the lookout for weather forecasts or any emergencies.

PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

- Use a one-page fact sheet provided on www.t2center.uconn.edu
- You may use materials provided by Louisiana LTAP www.louisianaltap.org
- Look for visual aids and/or props.
- Photocopy handouts ahead of time.
- Familiarize materials a night before.

CONDUCT THE SESSION.

- Keep your presentation informal.
- Don't use words your employees won't understand.
- Involve your workers in discussion of the topic.
- Allow time for questions at the end.
- Have workers sign a sheet showing they were trained and keep it on file.

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