

BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

Trinity County is committed to providing a safe workplace for our employees. Preventing work related illness and injury is our primary goal. We want to maintain a safe working environment and provide appropriate medical treatment if an injury occurs.

Objective:

Trinity County employees will have knowledge of what a bloodborne pathogen is and how to reduce the risk of exposure including what to do in case of possible exposure.

Definitions:

Bloodborne Pathogens means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

- **Contaminated means** – the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.
- **Contaminated Laundry means** – laundry which has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or may contain sharps.
- **Contaminated Sharps means** – any contaminated object that can penetrate the skin including, but not limited to, needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.
- **Exposure Incident means** – a specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that results from the performance of an employee's duties.
- **Licensed Healthcare Professional means** – this person is legally permitted to practice allowing him/her to independently perform the activities required such as; Hepatitis B Vaccination, post-exposure evaluations and follow-up care.
- **HBV means** – Hepatitis B Virus.
- **HIV means** – Human Immunodeficiency Virus.
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) means** – there is specialized clothing or equipment worn by an employee for protection against a hazard(s). General work clothes (e.g., uniforms, pants, shoes, shirts or blouses) not intended to function as protection against a hazard are not considered to be personal protective equipment.
- **Universal Precautions means** – all human blood and certain human body fluids are treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV, and other bloodborne pathogens.

Training:

- **Universal Precautions:** Universal precautions shall be observed to prevent contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Under circumstances in which differentiation between body fluid types is difficult or impossible, all body fluids shall be considered potentially infectious materials—"If it is wet and it's not yours, do not touch it".
- **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** – Engineering and work practice controls shall be used to eliminate or minimize employee exposure. Where occupational exposure remains after institution of these controls, personal protective equipment (PPE) shall also be used. When there is occupational exposure risk, the employer shall provide, at no cost

to the employee, appropriate PPE such as, but not limited to, gloves, gowns, laboratory coats, face shields or masks, eye protection, mouthpieces, resuscitation bags, pocket masks or other ventilation devices. PPE equipment will be considered appropriate only if it does not permit blood or other potentially infectious materials to pass through to or reach the employee's work clothes, street clothes, undergarments, skin, eyes, mouth, or other mucous membranes under normal conditions of use and for the duration of time which the protective equipment will be used. All PPE should be removed prior to leaving work area.

- **Washing Hands:** Employees should immediately wash their hands after contact with blood or bodily fluids. Employees wearing gloves should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water under running water and dry their hands with a disposable towel.
- **Housekeeping:** Trash can often be a threat. Employees should by no means put their hands inside a trash receptacle or pick up broken glass. Broken glass should be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a brush and dustpan, tongs, or forceps. Broken glassware which may be contaminated shall not be picked up directly with the hands. All bins, pails, cans, and similar receptacles intended for reuse which have a reasonable likelihood for becoming contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be inspected and decontaminated on a regularly scheduled basis and cleaned and decontaminated immediately or as soon as feasible upon visible contamination. Employees should keep a neat and clean work area.
- **Work Practice Controls:** Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are prohibited in work areas where there is a reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure. Food and drink shall not be kept in refrigerators, freezers, shelves, cabinets or on countertops or bench tops where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present.
- **Exposure Prevention:** Contaminated needles and/or other contaminated sharps shall not be bent, recapped, or removed. Shearing or breaking of contaminated needles is strictly prohibited. Immediately or as soon as possible after use, contaminated reusable sharps shall be placed in appropriate containers until properly reprocessed. In accordance with OSHA standards and as set forth for reusable sharps containers shall be puncture resistant; labeled or color-coded, leak-proof on sides and bottom. If an exposure occurs on a garment(s) and is penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious materials, the garment(s) shall be removed immediately or as soon as feasible.

Notify your supervisor immediately if you are exposed or think you may have been exposed.

References:

https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10

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Trinity County Seatbelt Use Policy

1. Each County employee shall be required to adhere to the general safety standards established for all employees and to all additional safety standards for their job or the department in which he/she works.
2. All County employees are required to wear a seatbelt while operating or riding in a County owned/leased vehicle. The use of seatbelts is a State law and is mandatory.
3. Failure to follow the safety standards set by the County shall make an employee subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.