



**Focus on Safety**

## **BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS HAZARDS AND CONTROLS**

Bloodborne pathogens are bacteria, viruses and other microorganisms that are carried in the bloodstream and may cause disease in the contract person. There are many bloodborne pathogens that cause diseases, some can be deadly....Bloodborne pathogens that pose the greatest risk to you include:

- **Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)**
- **Hepatitis C (HCV)**
- **Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)**

### Transmission

The HIV and HBV blood borne pathogens may be transmitted from the infected individuals by blood or OPIM (Other Potentially Infectious Material), such as semen, saliva (from dental procedures), any body-fluid visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.

HBV and HIV are most commonly transmitted through sexual contact, sharing of hypodermic needles, accidental puncture wounds, contact between broken or damaged skin and infected body fluids, and contact between mucous membranes and infected body fluids.

### You may be at risk of exposure and transmission if:

- \* You have had more than one sexual partner
- \* You have unprotected sex (without a condom)
- \* You or your partner are intravenous drug users
- \* You are a first responder who gives first aid or medical assistance
- \* You ever come in contact with blood or body fluids at work



Standard precautions is a method of infection control in which all human blood and body fluids are treated as if they are known to be infectious. \*What this means to you at work is\* If an employee has been hurt and blood is present in the work environment DO NOT clean it up but secure the area and call the Safety Department immediately for at 449-3624 (Shane) or 435-2290 (Chuck).

Personal Protective Equipment: In emergency situations where an injury has occurred to protect yourself, it is essential to have a barrier between you and the potentially infected material. PPE such as disposable plastic gloves, face shield, goggles or protective eyewear, or a CPR mask as needed.

### OSHA defines an exposure incident as:

A specific eye, mouth, other mucous membrane, non-intact skin, parenteral contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials that result from the performance of an employee's duties. All exposure incidents shall be reported to the Safety office immediately for follow up medical evaluation.

### #1 Rule to follow

If you are exposed, STOP whatever you are doing, WASH – exposed area immediately with soap and water (save contaminated object for testing), REPORT – to your supervisor who will report to Safety immediately, SEEK – medical help, treatment and counseling

### Group Questions:

- **SHOULD I ALWAYS BE AWARE OF MY SURROUNDINGS?**
- **SHOULD I USE NON-GLOVED HANDS TO PICK UP BLOODY ITEMS?**

