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In 1991, OSHA issued the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29CFR 1910.1030). The purpose was to reduce the risk of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

This training will help to...

- Understand what bloodborne pathogens are and why they are dangerous.
- Understand basic information regarding HIV, hepatitis B (HBV) and hepatitis C (HCV).
- Learn the routes of exposure, techniques to reduce the risk of exposure, and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Understand what resources are available to employees in the workplace.
- Respond safely to an emergency at work.
- Provide guidelines for postexposure situations.
- Satisfy the OSHA annual training requirement in bloodborne pathogen awareness.



Management of Sharps

Needlesticks are the most common cause of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. It is estimated that there are 600,000 to 800,000 needlesticks annually in the United States.

Contaminated sharps are defined as any object contaminated with blood or OPIM that can penetrate the skin. These can include needles, scalpels, broken glass, broken capillary tubes, and exposed ends of dental wires.

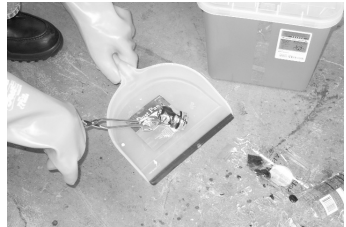
The employer is required to record all sharps injuries. A confidential **sharps injury log** must be part of the Exposure Control Plan and must include:

- Type and brand of device used in the incident
- Location of the incident
- Description of the incident

Techniques for handling sharps:

DO NOT

- Recap needles
- Break/bend needles



DO

- Use a mechanical means (tongs, broom, dustpan) and wear PPE to pick up broken glass and other sharps.
- Dispose of all sharps in a proper, puncture-resistant container with a biohazard label.
- Keep puncture-resistant sharps containers close by, so the user does not have to bend or strain to discard sharps.
- Utilize a needleless system or other advanced technology in laboratories and healthcare environments.
- Review sharps management policies and new technology and products annually or as needed.
- Follow your state's needle safety legislation.



Labeling

Regulated waste is soiled material from clean-up, or any discarded item contaminated with blood or OPIM. Regulated waste requires special clean-up, handling and disposal by an appropriate medical waste company. Examples include bloody gauze, soiled gloves, contaminated shoe covers, etc. Containers for regulated waste (other than contaminated sharps) should be closable, leak-proof, and labeled or color-coded to indicate a **biohazard**.

Contaminated laundry should be cleaned by a professional service that provides pick-up and cleaning.

Warning labels must be attached to containers of regulated waste, laundry, or any items exposed to blood or OPIM. Warning labels must also be attached to refrigerators and freezers containing blood or OPIM, and any container used to ship, store or otherwise transport blood or OPIM.

Containers carrying blood or OPIM must be labeled using a fluorescent orange or orange-red label with the **biohazard symbol** and lettering in a contrasting color. Labels should be attached so that they cannot be removed or accidentally fall off. Red bags or red containers may be substituted for labels.



The employer must post warning signs (the biohazard symbol) at the entrance to HIV and HBV research laboratories and production facilities, as specified by the standard.