



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

SOG: 031

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Purpose: The purpose of this guideline is to eliminate or minimize exposure to potentially infectious blood borne pathogens in accordance with the CFR29, Part 1910.1030, and become familiar with Body Substance Isolation (BSI) procedures.

OSHA standards are established to reduce first responder risk. Every member of the Galena Fire Department has the potential to experience occupational exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Blood borne Pathogens

Definition: Pathogenic micro-organisms present in human blood that can cause disease in humans. The term 'blood' also includes blood components and products made from human blood.

An example of an exposure is contact with skin, eyes, mucous membrane or parenteral contact with blood or infectious materials. Protect your eyes and avoid rubbing your eyes, and any open sores.

Body fluids include:

- Blood (liquid and dried).
- Semen.
- Vaginal secretions.
- Fluid from the brain and spinal cord (Cerebral spinal fluid [CSF]) which may be clear in color.
- Fluid from the abdominal cavity.
- Amniotic fluid (Clear fluid that protects the fetus).
- Saliva.
- Any body fluid mixed with blood.

A rescuers first line of defense includes:

- Appropriate PPE.
- Bunker Gear.
- Disposable gloves.
- HEPA masks.
- Goggles, face masks and gowns.

Treat all human body substances as though they are contaminated.

Items that can be contaminated:

- Clothing, bandage material, linens such as towels, sheets, blankets.
- Bunker Gear.
- Tools used on the scene of an accident or other emergency.
- Any needles, or other 'sharps' including broken glass, or exposed dental products.



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Universal precautions will be followed at all times when there is reasonable potential for exposure. All human blood and body fluids are to be treated as if infected. Remember that both the living and the dead can contaminate you.

Antiseptic hand cleaner is available in every ambulance and on GFD Vehicle 135, and should be used immediately after removing gloves. Hands and exposed skin surface should also be washed with soap and water as soon as possible after coming in contact with, or handling any victim or object potentially exposed to body fluids.

Needles or any other 'sharps' should not be recapped, bent, sheared, broken or handled in any way that could produce undue risk of exposure. All used or opened needles or other 'sharps' are to be placed in a proper container immediately, or as soon as possible, after use.

Extreme caution should be used to avoid contact with any object, such as broken glass, torn metal, wood splinters, etc. capable of causing an abrasion, puncture or laceration in human skin.

All procedures involving potentially infectious material should be performed in a manner so as to minimize splashing, spraying, spattering or generation of droplets. If assisting EMS personnel, make certain that all available (goggles, masks, gloves etc.) are worn appropriately.

Potentially contaminated linen or equipment will be placed in proper containers provided. Potentially contaminated employee clothing should be removed as soon as possible and laundered in a manner so as to terminate any potentially infectious blood borne pathogens.

All potentially contaminated surfaces and equipment should be cleaned with a proper disinfectant as soon is feasible after possible contamination.

Prevention

Exposure infection can be prevented via:

- Always being aware of your situation and assuming the worst-case scenario.
- Decontamination with soap and antibiotic sprays such as 'Cavalcade'.
- Physical controls such as sharps containers, self-sheathing needles, gloves, masks, goggles and gowns.

Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) / Body Substance Isolation (BSI)

PPE for blood borne pathogens can include gloves, gowns, masks, eye protection, hair nets and shoe covers and should be used in direct relation to the potential for exposure including but not limited to:

- Medical latex gloves should be worn at all times when handling any victim.
- All protective equipment, including heavy duty rubber gloves, eye protection and protective clothing should be used when there is potential for splash, spray or splatter or when there is likely to be more body fluids on scene than would normally be expected.
- Protective/tear and puncture resistant clothing, including leather work gloves worn over latex gloves should be worn on any scene, such as motor vehicle accidents, where sharp edges and other hazards are normally expected to be present.



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Personnel should feel free to make use of any personal protection equipment any time he/she feels there is a possible need. If in doubt, personnel are encouraged to inquire from EMS personnel on scene what the necessary precautions should be.

Training

All personnel with the potential for occupational exposure will participate in an annual training program relating to such exposure. This training will also be provided to all new recruits. All training will be in accordance with CFR 29, 1910.1030.

To protect yourself as a first responder

- Carry and use latex or non-latex gloves.
- Use a HEPA mask for potential TB patients or spitting patients.
- Have available facemasks, goggles, gloves and eye shields and gowns need to be available for immediate use.
- Fluid resistant shirts, jackets, pants, gloves and gowns are available.
- Use the sharps containers for any IV or glucose level needle sticks.
- Do not use mouth-to-mouth resuscitation - Always use a mask, shield, or ambu-bag.
- Your bunker gear may help, but always wash your gear immediately after the call.
- If you're personal clothing or shoes are contaminated with body fluids. Notify your officer, dispose of the articles of clothing in a biohazard (red) bag, Members can apply for reimbursement if you were functioning as a firefighter or assisting EMS and took every reasonable precaution as noted above.

Hand washing is the single most effective way to prevent being infected.

- Wash your hands after every call of which a possible exposure exists.
- Wash your hands as soon as your gloves are removed.
- Wash your hands for at least five (5) minutes if you have contacted body fluids.
- Use the red biohazard bags for exposed gloves, masks, gowns, clothing, linen, backboard straps, dressing and bandages.
- Decontaminate any contaminated portion of the apparatus with Cavicide® after calls in which contamination was possible.