

What clean-up duties need to be performed?

The following steps need to be done without delay:

- » Send soiled clothing (including footwear) to a commercial laundry familiar with proper decontamination procedures.
- » Properly discard contaminated items in appropriately labeled biohazard containers.
- » Decontaminate reusable items with:
 - ✓ a germicide and hot water;
 - ✓ 10% bleach solution (can be mixed no more than a few hours ahead) or
 - ✓ an EPA-approved disinfectant following manufacturer's instructions



Biohazard Symbol

Where can I get more information?

MSHA Health Divisions:

Metal/Nonmetal: 202-693-9630

Coal: 202-693-9510

National AIDS Information Clearinghouse
Hotline: 1-800-458-5231

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Visit our Web site at www.msha.gov

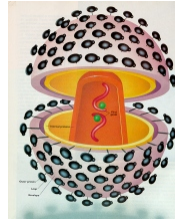
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Bloodborne Pathogens



Health Hazard Information Card HH-30

What are bloodborne pathogens?



Human
Immunodeficiency
Virus

an immunodeficiency

'Pathogens' are microorganisms, such as viruses and bacteria, that cause disease. The ones living in the blood are 'bloodborne pathogens'. The most deadly is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS, but two others are also very serious -- the Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV).

Can I be infected at work?

You work in one of the most dangerous industries in this country -- mining. In many cases, if someone's injured, a supervisor, an EMT, or a mine rescue team member is the first responder. Even so, you may be the first person at an accident scene and you may need to help.

Ordinary contact, like sharing toilets or tools or shaking hands, does not spread an infection. The greatest risk is that a pathogen will pass from infected blood into your blood through an open cut or mucous membrane (eyes or the inside of the nose or mouth).

In other words, you are not at high risk of contracting a bloodborne disease, but it pays to remember the following tips.

How can I prevent an infection?

Use **Universal Precautions** – Assume that **all blood and body fluids are contaminated**.

1. Avoid exposure to blood. Be especially careful when handling sharp tools such as knives, screwdrivers, or saws, or when working around jagged or sharp metal edges.
2. Avoid giving first aid or cleaning up an accident site if you have a cut, scrape, burn, sore, or rash. Be healed, or be sealed from contact, like wearing latex gloves.
3. Wear protective equipment any time you give first aid or clean up an accident site.
4. Wash your hands and wear clean gloves before touching an injured person. Change gloves (from person to person) each time to avoid cross contamination.
5. Refrain from dipping, chewing, smoking, eating, drinking, biting your nails, or otherwise touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.
6. Do not handle personal items (pens, combs, etc.) until you have finished giving care, removed your protective equipment, and washed your hands.

What protective gear should I use?

Protective equipment acts as a **barrier** between you and an injured person's blood. Viruses and bacteria will not pass through it. You need to wear:

- » Gloves – disposable, two pairs on each hand to strengthen the barrier
- » Mask, respirator, and/or face shield – to protect eyes, nose, mouth, and face against splashes
- » One-way mouthpiece or resuscitation device – to give artificial respiration
- » Other protective clothing – apron, coveralls, shoe covers, hair cover, etc.

Where do I get this protective gear?

The personal protective clothing and devices, supplies, and equipment that you need for small-scale emergencies will be a combination first aid-spill control kit. This kit can be found in your mine rescue equipment, in a vehicle designated for emergencies, or in other areas onsite. Not all of the items mentioned previously as part of the protective gear and other equipment will necessarily be part of the kits, but most of them are standard.

What other equipment may be needed?

- » Sharps containers -- for hypodermic needles, broken glass, etc.
- » Absorbent material -- for small blood/body fluid spills
- » Antiseptic cleansers -- EPA-approved disinfectants, 10% bleach-water mixture
- » Biohazard containers -- disposal bags and boxes for waste; containers for reusable items
- » Paper towels or treated wipes
- » Miscellaneous -- whisk broom and scoop (for cleaning up spills absorbed), tweezers or tongs (for picking up contaminated objects, broken glass, etc.)

What if I still come in contact with blood/body fluids?

4. Without delay, using antiseptic soap and hot water, thoroughly wash your hands (even if you wore gloves) and any unprotected skin area.
5. If you're in an area where you can't wash, use a waterless antiseptic cleanser.
6. Report the contact and get an HBV vaccine within 24 hours (if you haven't already received the vaccine within the last 7 years).