


Section: Medical Exposure Control Plan – Prevention Procedures
Subject: ENGINEERING AND WORK PRACTICE CONTROLS
Section #: 381.02
Issue Date: March 21, 2011
Revision Date:
Approved By: 

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1. Engineering and Work Practice Controls will be used to eliminate possible employee exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials.
 - a. Where occupational exposure remains, after implementation of these controls, *personal protective equipment* (PPE) shall be used (see 381.01, Universal Precautions).
 - b. Engineering and Work Practice Controls shall be examined on a regular basis and maintained or replaced as necessary.
2. Handling of sharps:
 - a. **Recapping of contaminated sharps and the bending or breaking of needles is strictly PROHIBITED.**
 - b. Leak-proof, puncture resistant sharps containers with appropriate labels and of the appropriate color shall be stocked on every HCFR Rescue, Engine, Ladder, & first response vehicle.
 - i. All sharps containers shall be labeled in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1030 and F.A.C. 64E-16.003.
 - c. A sharps container must be located at *arms length* from any Paramedic or EMT who is performing a procedure involving the use of a sharp device in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1030 and F.A.C. 64E-16.003.
 - d. Sharps containers shall be stored in an upright position, not overfilled, and closed to prevent spillage when they are moved.
 - e. Filled sharps containers will be replaced prior to becoming overfull.
 - i. Once a sharps container is full it should be snapped closed and taped to prevent accidental or deliberate reopening of the container.
 1. Sharps containers **shall not be reused or emptied** by any member.
 - ii. Once sealed the sharps container will be placed in a secure location for pickup by and return to the supply facility for final disposal.
 - iii. Storage of sharps containers and medical waste shall be out of the general access area of the Fire Station in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1030.
 - f. **No sharp** will be place into a red bio-bag or any other receptacle other than an approved sharps container.
 - g. Any material that may cause a puncture or laceration (i.e. broken glass vials, blood tubes) that are contaminated with blood shall be secured in a sharps container.
3. Personal Hygiene:
 - a. Hand washing facilities shall be available for members of HCFR at the following locations:
 - i. All HCFR Firehouses and stand-alone Rescue Sub-stations
 - ii. HCFR Fire Headquarters, Fire Marshall's Office, Vehicle Maintenance, and Supply sections
 - iii. All receiving hospitals in Hillsborough County and adjacent counties
 - b. Members shall wash their hands and all other exposed skin surfaces with soap and water immediately, or as soon as feasible, after the removal of protective gloves or other potentially infectious materials.
 - c. Members shall rinse and flush thoroughly any mucous membrane area immediately, or as soon as feasible, following contact of these areas with a contaminated or potentially contaminated substance.

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- d. When the use of a hand washing facility is unavailable, members shall use antiseptic or germicidal hand cleaner.
 - i. This will be followed by proper hand washing ASAP.
 - e. Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics, and/or the handling of contact lenses is strictly prohibited in apparatus or any work area in which there is the potential for exposure to blood or potentially infectious materials.
 - f. If decontaminating equipment or apparatus all appropriate universal precautions shall be used.
 - g. All members **shall** shower (thoroughly washing with soap) and change all clothing (uniforms and undergarments) prior to using any sleeping facility provided at HCFR Firehouses and Rescue Sub-stations.
4. Infectious Materials Handling:
- a. Any potentially infectious material will only be placed in appropriate storage / disposal containers which prevent leaking during collection, handling, processing, storage, transport, and shipping.
 - b. Containers for storage or transport of material that is contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be:
 - i. Appropriately labeled and/or color coded – **and** –
 - ii. Closed securely.
 - c. If outside contamination occurs of the primary container occurs it shall be place within a second leak-proof, appropriately labeled and/or colored container.
 - d. Anything placed into a red biohazardous waste bag may not be removed and segregated into regular trash.
5. Equipment Handling:
- a. Equipment which may become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials will be examined prior to service or shipping and shall be decontaminated as necessary.
 - b. Equipment that cannot be decontaminated prior to repair or shipping shall be inspected and the site(s) of contamination identified and clearly marked.
6. Cleaning and Disinfection:
- a. All medical supplies and equipment which become contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials shall be cleaned and disinfected, using appropriate disinfecting agents, prior to reuse.
 - i. Contaminated areas of apparatus shall be disinfected in the same manner prior to the crew returning to an "available" status.
 - b. Decontamination procedures shall utilize a 10% chlorine bleach solution.