

FIRST AID/BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS TRAINING OUTLINE - OCTOBER

Generally, our warehouse employees will not receive certified first aid training. However, there are certain things all employees should do in the event an employee is severely injured on the job. It is important to distinguish between a serious injury and one that is not serious. Emergency medical services should be used only in the event of a serious injury. The following general procedures should be followed in the event of a serious injury:

1. **Call for medical help immediately.** Employees need to know who the first aid responder is in the warehouse. This person should be the first contact. If a first aid responder is not available, emergency medical providers should be identified and their telephone numbers should be posted. Identify where these numbers are located and when they should be used.
2. **Bring help to the employee,** don't bring the employee to help. Try to determine the nature of the injury to give the information to the first aid responder or doctor. Don't move the employee unless it is necessary to save his or her life.
3. **Know where the first aid kits are.** It may be necessary to get medical supplies to help an injured employee.
4. **Don't use medication without a doctor's supervision.** This seems like a reasonable step, but it is often overlooked. People may be allergic to certain medicine.
5. **Wait for medical assistance** if you don't know what to do. You can cause more problems by trying to help a person if you do the wrong thing.

These general procedures should be followed in the event of a serious injury. Employees should be instructed to not attempt to do too much. Injuries require the response of medical professionals. Getting medical help as soon as possible is the most important thing an employee can do in the event of a serious injury.

Bloodborne Pathogens

All employees except first aid responders must be directed to avoid contact with all blood and bodily fluids of other employees. If an employee cuts his hand or has a nose bleed, for example, only the employee or a first aid provider should clean up any spilled blood. The proper cleanup procedures are located in the first aid/bloodborne pathogens section of the Safety Manual under Housekeeping.

However, sometimes an emergency situation will require that another employee come into contact with another employee's blood. If an employee is exposed to another employee's blood, the affected employee must be offered a Hepatitis B vaccination shot. This is an OSHA requirement and must be followed. Also, there are some recordkeeping requirements that are outlined in the Hepatitis B Vaccine Policy section in the Safety Manual.

First Aid Responder Training

Make sure all of the first aid responders in your facility are current with their certification. Depending on your state, refresher training will be required every one to three years. Also, they need to read the First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogens section of the Safety Manual and become familiar with Company policy. They should be offered a Hepatitis B vaccination shot and sign the Bloodborne Pathogens training certification form located in the Safety Manual.