

# UMS Safety Support Updates, News and Other Topics of Interest

## December 2017

### Topics in this newsletter

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### This Month's Safety Reminder – Bloodborne Pathogens Program (BBP)

Bloodborne pathogens are infectious microorganisms in human blood that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Not only does it include human blood, but also other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) such as the following human body fluids: semen, vaginal secretions, cerebrospinal fluid, synovial fluid, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, amniotic fluid, saliva in dental procedures, any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood, and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids; any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead); and HIV- or HBV-containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures, and HIV- or HBV-containing culture medium or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

At the university, we have many types of job tasks where our workers may be at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens. For instance:

- If you're required to render first aid – such as medical/healthcare workers, employees working at locations where medical care isn't close by, logging employees, and employees in the electrical power industry, electrical line tree trimming clearance, etc.
- Housekeeping/custodial personnel
- Lab workers
- Facilities Management

Do you have workers that may have an occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens? If so, you must implement an exposure control plan with details on employee protection measures. Don't forget to provide your employees (that are covered by the bloodborne pathogens standard) an explanation of the plan during their initial training session and also during their annual refresher training.

Have they all received annual training? Training is required:

- At the time of initial assignment to tasks where occupational exposure may take place;
- At least annually thereafter (within one year of their previous training)
- Employees must receive additional training when changes such as modification of tasks or procedures or institution of new tasks or procedures affect the employee's occupational exposure. The additional training may be limited to addressing the new exposures created.

Do you have copies of the employees declination statement form on file for those employees that declined the hepatitis B vaccination?

- These typically are also on file at your HR department.
- If your employees have elected to receive the hepatitis B vaccine, have they completed the entire series?

If you have any further questions or need assistance with your Bloodborne Pathogens Program, Exposure Control Plan, or training, please don't hesitate to contact the UMaine Safety and Environmental Management department at 581-4055, or email us at [sem@maine.edu](mailto:sem@maine.edu).



## What Were They Thinking?

*Not a UMS campus work-area image(s)*



Yes, that's a hotplate on top of a flammable storage locker...

