

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Healthcare PPE

What does OSHA say? PPE is required by the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard if exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) is anticipated and where occupational exposure remains, after institution of engineering and work practice controls (1910.1030(d)(2)(i)). PPE can provide some protection from infectious materials as a barrier to protect skin and mucus membranes from contact with blood and other potentially infectious materials.

## WORKSAFE TIPS

### PPE: Personal Protective Equipment

#### HEALTHCARE P.P.E.

- Is provided by the employer.
- Cleaned, laundered and disposed of at no cost to the employee.

#### HEALTHCARE P.P.E. INCLUDES

- Protective gloves
- Protective eyewear
- Goggles
- Gown
- Footwear covers
- Laboratory coats
- Masks
- Face shields
- Pocket masks
- Bag valve masks

#### WHEN TO WEAR P.P.E.

- Employees must wear gloves when hand contact with blood, mucous membranes, OPIM, or non-intact skin is anticipated, and when performing vascular access procedures, or when handling contaminated items or surfaces.

#### HAND WASHING

- Healthcare workers must wash hands immediately or as soon as feasible after removing gloves or other P.P.E.

### DISPOSAL

- Employees must remove protective clothing before leaving the room, and dispose of it in an appropriately designated area or container for storage, washing, decontamination, or disposal.

### GENERAL P.P.E. GUIDELINES

- Wear gloves, when handling chemicals and/or body fluids.
- Wear safety shoes/boots/covers if hazardous substance is likely to splash.
- Wear an apron/gown/coveralls- if hazardous substance is likely to splash.
- Use a respirator: when hazardous substance is airborne such as tuberculosis.
- Wear hearing protection: for loud noises such as from equipment.
- Remove PPE carefully to avoid contaminating yourself.
- Dispose of PPE in designated containers before leaving area.
- Wear P.P.E. (gloves, goggles, and splash aprons) as appropriate when exposed to hazards such as cleaning detergents, chemicals, and hazardous drugs.

Work **SAFE**

Smart, Accident-Free Environments