

Training for and Rendering First Aid

All employers who do not have medical services (clinic, ambulance, hospital, etc.) readily accessible must have a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid as set forth in Title 29, Section 1910.151 of the Code of Federal Regulations. “Readily accessible” means within ten minutes travel time for non-serious injuries and three to four minutes for life threatening injuries. If first aid providers are required on-site, the employer must also provide readily available first aid supplies. The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration does not approve first aid kits or state the required contents of a first aid kit. First aid supplies should be ordered through consultation with a health care professional.



Bloodborne Pathogen Training

An infection control program and bloodborne pathogen training are necessary when an employer has designated personnel to provide first aid services. If you are not required to, and do not wish to designate first aid providers, a policy should be developed stating such. In this case, off-site sources must be relied on for provision of first aid services, and absolutely no employees have responsibility to provide first aid to other employees. The employer should ensure that an off-site responder (e.g., ambulance service) is able to handle medical emergencies and is familiar with the facility location. It is strongly recommended that this policy be in writing, clearly communicated to all employees, and enforced. This will reduce confusion regarding compliance with the bloodborne infectious disease rules.

Simply providing first aid training to employees or kits for employee use does not require an employer to comply with the bloodborne infectious diseases standard. As long as a policy, as described above, is in place, employees can use the kits themselves to treat minor injuries without the employer complying with the bloodborne infectious diseases standard.

Emergency Shower/Eyewash

If the eyes or body of any employee may be exposed to injurious or corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body must be provided in the work area for immediate emergency use. Materials are normally considered to be caustic compounds if they have a pH of 9.0 or greater or acidic compounds if they have a pH of 4.0 or less in solution. A cleaner in a plating line is an example of a corrosive mate-

rial found in some manufacturing facilities. The pH of a chemical usually can be obtained from the safety data sheet (see Chapter 11, *Hazard Communication Standard – 2012*). Materials which, by their nature, are capable of causing severe tissue damage (e.g., formaldehyde, methyl ethyl ketone peroxides, or other organic solvents) are also considered injurious.

Suitable facilities are considered to be plumbed or self-contained emergency shower and/or eyewash equipment or eye/face wash equipment meeting the design specifications of the American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment (American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z358.1–2009). Additionally, according to ANSI, self-contained eyewash equipment or portable units must be capable of delivering to the eyes not less than 0.4 gallons (1.5 liters) per minute for 15 minutes (minimum total volume of six gallons or 22.7 liters). Self-contained emergency showers shall be capable of delivering a minimum of 20 gallons (75.7 liters) per minute for 15 minutes (minimum total volume of 300 gallons or 1135.6 liters).

Currently, IOSHA recognizes a cold water pipe (carrying potable water at a pressure not exceeding 25 pounds per square inch) equipped with a quick-opening valve and a handheld drench hose or a standard hose at least 48 inches in length and not smaller than three-fourths (3/4) of an inch in diameter, as “suitable facilities.” A shortcoming of this type of system is that both hands are not free to hold the eyelids open. Additionally, both eyes cannot be flushed simultaneously.

The proximity of the emergency shower and eyewash is determined by the injurious or corrosive nature of the chemical and its ability to cause tissue damage. Chemicals considered highly corrosive (i.e., pH less than 2.0 or pH greater than 12.5) or capable of causing severe tissue damage must have, as appropriate, an emergency shower and eyewash station within 25 feet of the hazardous operation. The location of the station shall be clearly marked, well lit, and easily accessible.

There should be no obstacles, closeable doorways, or turns obscuring access to the emergency shower or eyewash. It should take no longer than ten seconds to reach the emergency equipment.

For corrosive materials that are not considered to be of a seriously damaging nature (e.g., pH greater than 2 and less than 4 or pH greater than 9 and less than 12.5), the facility must have an appropriate eyewash and shower station located within the work areas for immediate use.

Free Technical Assistance

For assistance with occupational safety and health questions or to request free, professional, on-site consultation services, contact a safety or health consultant with the Indiana Department of Labor’s INSafe division by e-mailing insafe@dol.IN.gov or by calling (317) 232-2688. Visit INSafe’s website at www.IN.gov/dol/insafe.htm for more information.