

Loss Control Bulletin #30

Federal and state laws require employers to provide their employees with ready access to medical and first-aid services. This obligation is satisfied if a workplace is located in close proximity to an infirmary, clinic, or hospital. At any fixed or temporary workplace that is not located close to an independent medical facility or where because of shift work employees can not access nearby medical facilities, employers must provide their employees with ready access to medical and first aid services in the following manner:

- Five percent (5%) or 1 out of 20 employees on every shift at the worksite must receive first-aid training equal to that provided by the American Red Cross or the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration;
- The worksite must be supplied with adequate first-aid materials approved by a consulting physician, that are readily accessible to all employees.
- First-aid materials must be maintained in a sanitary, usable condition, frequently inspected and replenished as necessary.
- Supplies and facilities for drenching or washing the eyes and body must be provided in work areas where employees may be exposed to caustic or corrosive materials.
- Stretchers, blankets, or other warm covering must be provided in areas where ambulance service is not available within 30 minutes under normal conditions.
- At remote, isolated work sites, employers must make advance preparations for delivering prompt medical attention to seriously injured employees. This requires special planning to avoid delay of treatment and may involve:
 - setting up on-site facilities
 - providing special transportation arrangements to a medical facility or doctor, or
 - a telephone communication system to contact a doctor or ambulance transportation.

If it is reasonable to anticipate that an employee providing first-aid to an injured employee may come into contact with blood or other body fluids, the employer must also comply with the requirements of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, which at a minimum, includes establishing and annually reviewing and updating an Exposure Control Plan, and providing first-aid trained employees with personal protective equipment.

Additional information can be obtained at these websites:

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/3400.html> California General Safety Orders on first aid requirements

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9806 -Fed OSHA first aid requirements

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051 - Bloodborne pathogens standard

The guidelines provided in this bulletin are only intended to provide an overview of some of the more important steps that can be taken by management to establish a safe workplace. The guidelines are not considered exhaustive of all measures and controls that can be implemented by management to address all potential loss or injury producing causes. Ultimately it is the responsibility of management to take the necessary steps to provide for employee and customer safety.