

# FIRST-AID KITS, BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

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During fair events employees, volunteers or visitors may sustain cuts or other minor injuries. A supply of first-aid materials and trained emergency responders can help attend to these situations. In addition, employees and volunteers should also have an understanding of the potential hazards involved with exposure to blood.

Designated individuals may be responsible for cleaning up blood or other bodily fluids. Providing spill kits for various bodily fluids, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and training can help staff address the hazards of blood-borne pathogens.



FIRST-AID KITS, BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

## FIRST-AID KITS

First-aid kits should be readily available to treat minor injuries. The contents of the kit should correspond to the hazards of the particular location they serve. Cooking facilities, for example, might include special burn cream that first-aid kits in other locations do not.

All first-aid kits should be inspected periodically. The inspections should include restocking of depleted items and removal of expired products. Some items have printed expiration dates; others, such as adhesive bandages, typically do not. If the packaging shows signs of aging or if the seal is broken, the items should be discarded.

Agricultural societies should ensure that if over-the-counter medications are included in first-aid kits that medications are in packaging labeled consistent with federal requirements. With appropriate labeling, people can review the ingredients, usage, dosage and consumer safety information to make informed decisions.

Sealed, single dose and tamper evident packaging may be the best option. Medications should also be periodically inspected to ensure that they have not been tampered with, recalled or expired.



*First-aid kit*

## BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGEN EXPOSURE

The universal precaution when encountering any blood exposure is to treat it as though it is infected with a blood borne pathogen (e.g., hepatitis, HIV). Although blood is the common exposure, items that could contain blood should also be treated with caution. Other potentially infectious materials include bodily fluids (e.g., urine, feces, vomit) and items with



*Sharps disposal container*

potential blood contact (e.g., discarded bandages, tissues, feminine hygiene products, used personal protective equipment).

When encountering or cleaning up a blood or other potential infectious material exposure, agricultural societies should follow these best practices:

- Train all employees and volunteers about:
  - The hazards of blood borne pathogens
  - What to do if blood or other potentially infectious materials are discovered
  - What to do if individuals are exposed.
  - Employees or volunteers expected to clean blood or other potentially infectious materials should be trained about personal protective equipment use, sanitizing the area and disposal of blood or soiled material.
- Always treat the material as if it is infected.
- Call for assistance for any injured person or for help with cleanup.
- Direct others away from the spill or exposure.
- Wear medical use gloves for blood spills; disposable latex or nitrile gloves are popular. Some gloves are designed for food prep and not for medical use.
- Inspect gloves for holes or tears prior to putting them on.
- Use the appropriate spill cleanup kit with cleaners capable of neutralizing common blood borne pathogens. Treating an exposure with a cleaner does not preclude the need for PPE.
- Dispose of the contaminated materials in a secure and appropriate location.
- Avoid throwing contaminated sharps or sharp objects into the garbage. Sharps containers are the most effective disposal location to prevent injury. If sharps containers are present, ensure there is a plan for safe and proper disposal.
- Remove personal protective equipment and either dispose or place it in a secure location for washing. Do not reuse disposable personal protective equipment.
- Wash hands with soap and water after removing the personal protective equipment.
- When an employee or volunteer feels he or she has been exposed, the individual should wash the area with soap and water immediately and consult with appropriate agricultural society staff and medical professionals.

## GARBAGE HANDLING

Trash collection presents a risk for blood-borne pathogen exposure. Discarded needles, diapers, blood-stained debris and other potentially infectious materials may be found in the trash.

If fair employees or volunteers are responsible for collection or handling of garbage, the following precautions should be taken:

- Wear proper personal protective equipment, such as heavy footwear and gloves.
- Follow proper procedures when disposing of potentially infectious materials.
- Wash hands with soap and water after handling suspicious debris.



*Follow precautions while handling garbage.*

- Never crush trash by hand to make more room in collection containers.
- Hold trash collection bags away from the body. They should not be slung over shoulders or bounced against legs.



*Always carry trash away from the body. Do not throw it over shoulders or let it bump against legs or body.*



*Never press down trash to make more room in collection containers without properly protecting hands.*