

# SAFETYPOINT



Scrapyard Safety Training

## Bloodborne Pathogens The Big Three: HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis, C

Why talk about bloodborne pathogens in a recycling operation?

Because workers and customers can get cut and leave their blood on your premises. OSHA tells us to use the principle of “UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS” when dealing with bloodborne pathogens. That is, assume the worst. Assume that the blood or other body fluids you need to clean up are infected with one of the diseases listed above. After all—you don’t really know.

The Centers for Disease Control estimates that 1,148,200 persons aged 13 years and older are living with HIV infection, including 207,600 (18.1%) who are unaware of their infection. Over the past decade, the number of people living with HIV has increased, while the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable. In 2011, an estimated 49,273 people were diagnosed with HIV infection in the United States. In that same year, an estimated 32,052 people were diagnosed with AIDS. An estimated 15,529 people with an AIDS diagnosis died in 2010.

In 2007, there were an estimated 43,000 new Hepatitis B virus infections in the United States. However, the official number of reported Hepatitis B cases is much lower. Many people don’t know they are infected or may not have symptoms and therefore never seek the attention of medical or public health officials. In the United States, an estimated 800,000 to 1.4 million persons have chronic Hepatitis B virus infection.

In 2009, there were an estimated 16,000 acute Hepatitis C virus infections reported in the United States.

An estimated 3.2 million persons in the United States have chronic Hepatitis C virus infection. Most people do not know they are infected because they don’t look or feel sick.

Approximately 75%–85% of people who become infected with Hepatitis C virus develop chronic infection.

So, what should you do? Keep a body fluid or bloodborne pathogen kit in or near every first aid kit. Keep bleach on hand to pour onto potentially infectious body fluids. Use the rubber gloves and all the PPE in your kit while cleaning up fluids, then dispose of it properly in the red biohazard bag.



*Voice of the Recycling Industry*

Institute of  
Scrap Recycling  
Industries, Inc.

Send comments or questions to: [isrisafety@isri.org](mailto:isrisafety@isri.org)