

Bloodborne Pathogens

Bloodborne pathogens, what are they? They are infectious materials in blood that can cause disease in humans including: hepatitis B and C, and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

It has been proven that pathogens may be acquired through a single exposure, but the risk of exposure is highest when body fluids contaminated with blood are ingested, inhaled, or absorbed by another person. The most likely exposure points are through the eyes, nose, mouth, and/or through cuts, lacerations or open wounds. Since it cannot be determined whether bodily fluids are contaminated with blood just by looking, it is important to regard all bodily fluids as dangerous and to take appropriate precautions. Where these viruses are concerned, there is no slight exposure.

The concern about bloodborne pathogens is greatest in the healthcare industry. We do not expect to encounter blood in our day to day operation. But by the nature of what we do, bloody knuckles, or worse is not unusual. So it is important to do a little advance planning and to be prepared.

If a co-worker happens to get a cut or laceration, let them provide their own first aid, when possible. Make sure they also clean up any blood that may have been left in the work place. Use antibacterial hand soap for washing. Mild bleach water is an excellent disinfectant.

If an injury is severe enough that assistance is required, avoid direct contact with all bodily fluids. Blood soaked materials should be placed in a red plastic bag labeled "biohazard". Latex gloves and safety glasses/goggles should be available in the first aid kits.

If the accident occurs where first aid supplies are not available, use whatever barrier materials may be handy. A plastic bag, a clean rag, even the shirt off your back can provide a degree of protection.

Thoroughly scrub as soon as possible after the encounter. Use disinfectant to clean up the area.

Also don't worry about casual contact. Normal day to day physical contact with your co-workers does not transmit these diseases.

Common Sense in Eulogy

In July and August last year I printed the demise of Mr. Common Sense. Shortly thereafter, I received this. It was composed by Robert Stone, Area Manager for Delta Materials imi-South.

"The demise of Common Sense was indeed a tragedy and should have been mourned by all. Many modern, politically correct individuals, however, shrugged the passing as the end of a sympathetic, outdated icon that had lived past the ability to contribute to our new society.

The early consensus was to exhume the body of Common Sense demanding a drug test hoping to discredit the memory of what they feared would become a martyr. This concept was quickly abandoned, as those who knew and were actually responsible for his death feared that their actions would be cast into the harsh light of judgment.

A coroner's inquest was held. Class action attorneys, who were preparing to file litigation against McDonald's and Wendy's restaurant chains on behalf of obese clients, testified as to the unstable positions that Common Sense championed. Environmentalists seeking to halt road construction and dismantle river dams added their assessment. Catholic priests charged with pedophilia joined with atheists in an unprecedented alliance to question the stability of Common Sense's values.

A liberal press covered the proceedings splashing the testimony on television and in the newspapers. Politicians saw the opportunity for "sound bites", and after checking their polls, used airtime to further their agendas and careers. One congressman ingeniously denounced present campaign funding practices while soliciting contribution to help him further his reforms.

When "Entertainment Tonight" aired a segment on the inquest, Mick Jagger called Common Sense's death unfortunate saying that it was still cool to be knighted. Madonna, Michael Jackson, and Rosie O'Donnell stated that Common Sense's problematic life was the fault of poor parents and family values. Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks were discussing a movie based on the adventures of Don Quixote paralleling Common Sense's life to the deranged Spaniard charging windmills on his donkey. Jay Leno quipped that Hollywood's tribute to Common Sense was like

Inside this issue:

Bloodborne Pathogens

Common Sense revisited!

For What it is Worth!



For What it is Worth!

You cannot:

- Bring prosperity by discouraging thrift.
- Strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.
- Help the poor man by destroying the rich.
- Further brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred.
- Build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence.
- Help small men by tearing down big men.
- Lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.
- Keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.
- Establish security on borrowed money.
- Help men permanently by doing for them what they will not do for themselves.

By Rev. William J. H. Boetcker, in 1916



April 2003

Irving Materials, Inc.
2321 E - 150 N
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone: 260-824-3428
Fax: 260-824-4422
Email: walt.tharp@irvmat.com
Mobile: 317-432-9604

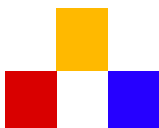


**We're Proud
of Our Work!**

Common Sense revisited!

sending more Indians against Custer.
In the end, the judgment was that Common Sense died tragically of "natural causes" brought on partly by dementia. His graveside became a curious cult shrine, and more flowers were delivered than most mobsters receive. In flawed logic, the memory of Common Sense is highly publicized in vernacular creating a legend that many in our new order are glad has fallen silent."

**Send me your suggestions for
future Safety Topics!**



Safety is no accident!

Location: _____

Supervisor: _____

please sign below as an indication that the material was read:

Make 2003 Incident Free!