**Blood Borne Pathogens/Facilities Management**

**Purpose**:

To get a better understanding of blood borne pathogens, and prevent the transmission of disease.

**Definition of Blood borne Pathogens**:

OSHA defines blood borne pathogens as pathogenic microorganisms that are present in blood, blood components, and products made from human blood and body fluids and can cause cause disease for humans. These pathogens include but are not limited to Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Pathogens are spread when a contaminated object touches: skin abrasions, eyes, nose, mouth, open wounds, or inflamed skin.

**Hazards**:

– Exposure to contaminated blood or body fluids could lead to the transmission of the diseases (HBV) and (HIV).

**Precautions**:

– Use universal precautions by treating all blood as though it is contaminated.

– Wash hands with soap and warm water.

– If there is a potential to being exposed to blood or bodily fluids, get a HBV vaccination.

– Always wear personal protective equipment when its reasonably anticipated that the employee may have contact with blood. Personal protective equipment includes gloves, goggles, and masks to cover both nose and mouth.

– All equipment and environment working surfaces shall be decontaminated with appropriate disinfectant immediately or as soon as possible.

– Broken glassware which may be contaminated shall be picked up by mechanical means and not by hands.

**Those at Risk**:

Custodians, public safety personnel, maintenance personnel, and all employees who may come into contact with infectious materials, such as items contaminated by blood, or body fluids.

**References**:

EZ facts, Blood borne Pathogens. (29CFR 1910.1030) OSHA Standard.