

**WASHGINTON COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE GUIDELINES**

Responding To Body Fluid Exposure

Exposure to body fluids is not only uncomfortable but also generates many questions about the proper medical response to exposure. Exposures fall into two areas, minimal risk body fluid exposure and high risk body fluid exposure.

Minimal Risk Body Fluids include: spit, urine, feces and vomit.

Higher Risk Fluids are blood and reproductive fluid when exposure is on broken skin or in the mouth and face. Bites from combative suspects should be treated as a higher risk exposure.

WCSO responses to exposures should be addressed in the following manner:

1) Minimal Risk Body Fluids

- A) The area shall be washed immediately with soap and water.
- B) The supervisor shall be notified.
- C) Any soiled clothing should be changed and washed appropriately.
- D) A First Report of Injury must be completed by the employee/supervisor within 24 hours.
- E) The exposed employee is encouraged to report to WorkMed during WorkMed's regular business hours for a base-line blood draw.

2) Higher Risk Body Fluids

- A) The area should be washed immediately with soap and water.
- B) The supervisor shall be notified.
- C) Any soiled clothing should be changed and washed.
- D) A First Report of Injury must be completed by the employee/supervisor within 24 hours.
- E) The exposed employee should report as soon as possible (no later than 72 hours from exposure) to the WorkMed for evaluation if open, other health care provider if WorkMed is closed, for a base-line blood draw, and possible treatment.

How do we handle other types of exposures, i.e., chemicals, spores, gases?

1) Exposures that do not cause immediate distress (breathing, burning, etc).

- A) The area should be washed immediately with soap and water.
- B) The supervisor shall be notified.
- C) Any soiled clothing should be changed and washed.
- D) A First Report of Injury completed by the employee/supervisor within 24 hours.
- E) The exposed employee should report to WorkMed during WorkMed's regular business hours.

- 2) Exposures that cause immediate distress (breathing, burning, etc).
 - A) Treat this as a medical emergency.
 - B) Render first aid and call for EMS.
 - C) The supervisor shall be notified.
 - D) Treatment should be followed as directed by EMS personnel.
 - E) A First Report of Injury must be completed by the employee/supervisor within 24 hours.

Compensation

If a supervisor directs an employee to get medical attention during work hours, we pay for the time. If an employee remains at the medical facility longer than his scheduled shift, we pay for the time the employee is being treated up to a maximum of four additional hours.

Employees who seek medical attention while off duty for the initial treatment of an injury, may be compensated for their time while being treated at the medical facility up to a maximum of four hours (travel time is not paid, only treatment time.)