



"Your Connection for Workplace Safety"
Phone: 920-208-7520

Weekly Safety Tip

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.

And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.



SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP



SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE



SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS

We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.

Let us know how you feel about our new look!

Safety Slogan

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

**James Lehrke-SCI
of the week**

SCI Safety Tip: Ebola: Call for Preparedness (Part 1)

By Ana Ellington, Legal Editor

Source: www.blr.com

Date: October 16, 2014

Although it is too early to call the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) a major health issue in the United States, employers—particularly in the healthcare industry—are starting to ask what actions they should take to be prepared in the event of an outbreak.

Healthcare workers at all levels—hospital, clinics, maintenance, laundry, and transport—are at the greatest risk of infection. With the second person—and second healthcare worker—contracting the EVD in the United States, healthcare workers are being urged by nurses' unions throughout the nation to engage in comprehensive education and preparedness activities in order to ensure safety. This is particularly important since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Dr. Tom Frieden said in a news conference that he would not be surprised if there were additional cases.

All hospitals in the United States need to be prepared to diagnose and need to be properly equipped to treat patients with the EVD. The National Nurses United—the largest registered nurses' (RN) union—called for all hospitals to have in place the highest standard of optimal protections, including hazmat suits and hands-on training to protect all RNs and other hospital personnel to confront Ebola.

Training is key

Understanding and using proper protocols for dealing with an EVD patient require training.

U.S. hospitals should immediately implement a full emergency preparedness plan for Ebola or other infectious disease outbreaks—including the enterovirus.

The plan should include:

- Full training of hospital personnel, along with proper protocols and training materials for responding to outbreaks, with the ability for nurses to interact and ask questions;
- Adequate supplies of hazmat suits and other personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Properly equipped isolation rooms to assure patient, visitor, and staff safety; *and*
- Proper procedures for disposal of medical waste and linens after use.

Ways of transmission

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), people become infected with the Ebola Virus through direct contact (through broken skin or mucous membranes such as lips, nostrils, mouth, eyes, or genitals) with the blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids of a sick person, a person who has died from the disease, or infected animals.

More Information:

- [Pandemic Planning Resource Center](#)
- [Healthcare Safety Resource Center](#)
- [CDC Ebola information](#)

People can also become infected from indirect contact by having broken skin or mucous membranes come in contact with materials or utensils contaminated with blood, secretions, or other bodily fluids from sick people and bodies (e.g., used gloves, masks, goggles, other medical waste, soiled clothes, bed linen, used needles, and medical instruments). In addition, men who have recovered from the illness can still spread the EVD to their partner through their semen for up to 7 weeks after recovery.

The incubation period, or the time interval from infection to onset of symptoms, is from 2 to 21 days. The infected person becomes contagious once he or she begins to show symptoms. An EVD patient is not contagious during the incubation period. EVD infections can only be confirmed through laboratory testing.

According to the WHO, the number of EVD cases in West Africa will exceed 9,000 this week, and it projected the pace of infections accelerating in West Africa to as many as 10,000 new cases a week within 2 months. The WHO added that the death rate in the Ebola epidemic has risen to 70 percent, up from 50 percent.

Control and prevention

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), exposure to Ebola or someone with EVD may be more likely in certain sectors, including the healthcare, mortuary/deathcare, and airline-servicing industries. [OSHA's Ebola website](#) provides regulatory information and hazard recognition, as well as precautionary measures and infection control strategies for workers in healthcare and nonhealthcare environments.

OSHA does have the following standards that apply to healthcare workers at risk of being exposed to Ebola:

- Bloodborne pathogen standard at 29 CFR 1910.1030;
- Respiratory protection standard at 29 CFR 1910.134;
- PPE standard at 29 CFR 1910.132; *and*
- General Duty Clause.

CDC prevention and control recommendations

The CDC's recommendations focus on the healthcare setting.

Patient placement

- Single patient room (containing a private bathroom) with the door closed
- Facilities should maintain a log of all persons entering the patient's room

You should consider posting a staff member at the patient's door to ensure appropriate and consistent use of PPE by all persons entering the patient's room.

SCI OSHA News: Contesting an OSHA Citation? Common Affirmative Defenses (Part 2)

Source: www.blr.com

By Jennifer Busick

Date: October 1, 2014

Continued OSHA Citation**The Impossibility Defense**

When you argue that you did not comply with a standard because compliance was simply not possible, you must demonstrate that:

- Compliance with the standard's requirements is functionally impossible, or would prevent workers from completing required work, *and*
- There are no feasible alternative means of providing equivalent protection for workers.

If you fail to establish either of these things, your defense will fail.

Affirmative Defenses It might be that OSHA cited you for a violation and that the violation did occur, but that you do not feel that you should be held responsible for it. In order to contest a citation in such a case, the burden of proof will fall on you (the employer) rather than on OSHA, and your defense falls into the category of an affirmative defense. An affirmative defense is simply a defense which, if established by the employer, will excuse the employer from a violation that has otherwise been proved by OSHA.

The classic example of an affirmative defense in criminal law is self-defense. When a defendant in a murder trial argues that the murder was committed in self-defense, the defendant admits up front to having killed the other person. The defendant simply argues that he is not liable for murder because he acted in defense of his own life. In such cases, the accused is responsible for proving his defense, because the prosecution's assertion—that he killed another person—is not directly at issue.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living



Allergy

An allergy is a reaction of your immune system to something that does not bother most other people. People who have allergies often are sensitive to more than one thing. Substances that often cause reactions are

- [Pollen](#)
- Dust mites
- Mold spores
- Pet dander
- [Food](#)
- Insect stings
- [Medicines](#)

How do you get allergies? Scientists think both genes and the environment have something to do with it. Normally, your immune system fights germs. It is your body's defense system. In most allergic reactions, however, it is responding to a false alarm.

Allergies can cause a runny nose, sneezing, itching, [rashes](#), swelling or [asthma](#). Symptoms vary. Although allergies can make you feel bad, they usually won't kill you. However, a severe reaction called anaphylaxis is life-threatening.

NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

The Lehrke Family Scholarship Fund Is Up & Running It's 2015 Fundraiser In Memory of the Lehrke Family Children - Jessica, Nick & Kristin – Our Theme – “ Help Us Help Others “



What do you think?
Send us an email at:
jliconnections@aol.com
See our bold new look @
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke

Lehrke Family Scholarship Fund
All proceeds go to the High School Scholarship

Las Vegas Trip & \$500 Cash

WIN A TRIP TO Fabulous LAS VEGAS NEVADA

Purchase a ticket for your chance to win
ROUND TRIP AIRLINE TICKETS and a HOTEL STAY IN LAS VEGAS
valued up to \$1000. Plus \$500 cash!
Drawing Held 12/13/14
This prize has the following guidelines:

- Prize is for 2 airline tickets & 3-night hotel stay for 2 people valued up to \$1000 and \$500 cash.
- Maximum travel prize value is \$1000. Prize covers 2 airline tickets (round-trip flights from Amsterdam or Milwaukee to Las Vegas, NV), round-trip hotel stay for 3 people, cruise of a land event at Fox World Travel and any additional charges (transfers, taxes, tickets, etc.) up to \$1000. Costs beyond \$1000 are the responsibility of the winner.
- Winner may choose travel dates, hotel accommodations and flights, but will be responsible for any charges above the \$1000 total value of the vacation.
- All taxes, fees, and expenses over \$1000 (including, but not limited to, food, beverages, and checked-baggage fees) are the responsibility of the winner.
- Package is redeemable in 2015. Travel must be completed by 12/31/15.
- Unused travel award will be forfeited. This award has no cash value and is non-refundable and non-transferable once booked.
- Travel arrangements must be made through Fox World Travel in Sheboygan.
- Cash prize of \$500 must be redeemed from Jim Lehrke on behalf of the Lehrke Family Scholarship Fund.
- Other restrictions may apply.

To redeem the travel prize, please choose your travel dates well in advance and contact
Fox World Travel - 375 S. Taylor Drive, Sheboygan
920-455-4600 or vacation@foxw.com
at least 60 days prior to your anticipated travel date.

To redeem the cash prize, please contact
Jim Lehrke - 920-912-7133
Thank you for your support!

Travel arrangements by:
FOX WORLD TRAVEL

