

KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Biohazard Safety



TEAMWORK
IMPROVES SAFETY

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Biohazards are materials or human waste that cause infections or disease. If you work in areas with wastewater, medical waste, or live sewer lines, for example, you should assume that all surfaces are contaminated.

Here is an Example: Alberto was repairing a sewer line. He was not wearing waterproof gloves and some of the sewage got on his hands. A few days later, he noticed a cut on his hand that was red and sore. He went to the doctor and learned that he had a serious infection probably caused by the raw sewage.

1. What should Alberto have done to protect himself from the contaminants?
2. Have you experienced an incident with raw sewage or potentially infectious material? If so, what happened?

Remember this:

- Avoid direct contact with sewage.
- Wash your hands well to prevent spread contaminants.
- Clean, treat, and report any cuts or wounds right away to prevent infection.
- Use liquid-proof gloves, boots, and face protection when you will have direct contact with sewage. Use a face shield if there might be splashing.
- Keep contaminated gloves, boots, face protection, and other equipment away from areas where food is eaten or stored.
- For pipeline and other inspections, use remote-controlled robotic cameras to minimize human exposure.
- Remove contaminated clothing at the site, if possible. A full decontamination process at the site may be necessary.
- Wash clothing at a high temperature (at least 160 degrees F) to destroy all germs.

For more information visit OSHA REGULATION: 1926..28

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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