

Chapter 9

FIRST AID/MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

9.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to explain necessary medical assistance including first aid or any other universal precautions to be taken by the provider of such assistance.

NOTE: Unless specifically noted on an employee's position description, providing first aid is not a condition of employment. If employees wish to assist an injured employee, they must comply with this chapter and **Section 13.7** of this *Manual, Bloodborne Pathogens*.

9.1.1 Medical assistance must be made available to all employees in the event of injuries.

9.1.2 Transportation must be made available to transport an injured employee to an appropriate physician, walk-in facility, emergency medical facility or other health care facility.

9.1.3 First aid supplies are required to be readily available at each work location, and in all Department vehicles. When large or multiple operations are being conducted at the same location, supervisors should determine the need for additional first aid kits, equipment, and supplies. First aid kits should meet the current **American National Standard Institute (ANSI) Z 308.1**.

9.1.4 The **ANSI** standard is to be used as a minimum requirement **guide** in determining what first aid supplies need to be stocked and the items in those kits vary based on the type of work activity. The use of first aid ointments, antiseptics and burn creams should be stocked on an as needs basis due to their shelf life.

9.2 IN THE EVENT OF AN INJURY

9.2.1 In the event of an injury, the following steps are to be taken:

9.2.2 If the employee's assigned tasks include exposure risks to blood or other potentially infectious materials while using first aid supplies, the supervisor will ensure that appropriate personal protection equipment is available which shall include, at minimum, disposable gloves, gown, face shield, mask, and eye protection.

- 9.2.3** In work areas and operations where the eyes and body of employees may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, facilities and/or equipment for quick drenching of the eyes and body shall be readily available.
- 9.2.4** Whenever possible, and if physically able, the injured employee will perform self-aid and clean up so as not to expose other employees to blood and other body fluids. Emergency Eye Wash Station and showers must meet the current **ANSI Z358**.
- Universal precautions should be observed by anyone assisting injured employees to prevent unanticipated exposure to blood or other body fluids. Gloves should be worn to prevent skin contact with the fluids.
- 9.2.5** Hands shall be washed immediately with soap and water after removal of the gloves.
- 9.2.6** Contaminated bandages, gauzes, and gloves shall be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of as ordinary trash.
- 9.2.7** Exposure incidents involving blood or other body fluids shall be reported in accordance with the requirements of the **Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Plan, Section 13.7** of this **Manual**.