

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

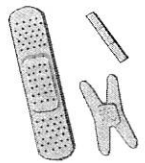
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 543: Tetanus

Introduction: Tetanus is caused by the bacteria *Clostridium Tetani* which can be found in soil, water, and dust. Tetanus can enter the body through minor cuts or skin abrasions, and is a serious and sometimes fatal disease that can attack the nervous system and cause severe uncontrollable muscle spasms. The environment can quickly become contaminated with the tetanus bacteria as the result of a sewage spill. The contamination can be easily spread to a wide variety of objects that are exposed to the environment.

Following are safety guidelines for preventing a tetanus infection:

- **Never ignore minor cuts and abrasions.** Clean all wounds with antiseptic and cover them with a sterile bandage to prevent contaminants from entering your body. See a doctor and request medication that will prevent an infection from the bacteria.
- **When** you are working in potentially hazardous areas or with potentially hazardous materials in an area that is suspected or known to be contaminated by sewage or animal feces, see a doctor and request medication that will prevent possible infection from contaminated soil, water, dust, building supplies, tools, or equipment.
- **When signs of infection** such as redness or swelling appear, the employee must see a doctor to ensure that he has not been infected by the tetanus bacteria. Receiving treatment and stopping infections will prevent advanced symptoms.
- **Employees should receive** treatment at least once every five years when working in areas known to be contaminated.
- **An employee that** starts to show symptoms such as stiffness of abdominal and back muscles, contraction of facial muscles, fever, sweating, or lockjaw, must see a doctor immediately.
- **Symptoms** of tetanus infection will usually start to occur between ten days and several weeks after the bacteria has entered the body.
- **Fatality** rates vary from thirty to ninety percent depending on how bad the infection is, and how soon treatment begins.
- **The bacteria spores** that cause tetanus live mostly in the top soil. Employees that are doing jobs which involve disturbance of the soil are likely to have traces of the bacteria on their skin.
- **Employees** can minimize the possibility of bacteria spores entering the body by wearing long sleeve shirts and long pants.
- **Many cuts and abrasions** occur on the hands and feet. The possibility of becoming infected by the tetanus bacteria will be considerably reduced when employees wear gloves and work boots.
- **Employees can minimize the risk** of infection from the tetanus bacteria by washing the skin with antibacterial soap. Bacteria can live on the skin for long periods of time and can cause an infection when a cut or abrasion occurs. Frequent washing of vulnerable areas of the skin will reduce the risk of tetanus infection.
- **Soil and water at the job site** should be tested for bacteria and other contaminants that may cause infections when long term work at the site is expected with many employees exposed to the environment.
- **Clothing that is worn** while working in contaminated areas, must be removed and disposed of, or washed as soon as possible after the work is completed. Bacteria on clothing can be spread to other areas. A cut or an abrasion can become infected from contaminated clothing.
- **Personal protective equipment (PPE)** that will be needed to reduce the risk of injury or infection will include a hard hat, safety glasses, a dust mask, cover-all type clothing, rubber gloves, heavy duty gloves, and heavy duty work boots.
- **First aid kits must be available** at job sites where the tetanus bacteria is suspected or known to be present in the environment. First aid kits that are intended for treating minor cuts and abrasions must contain anti-bacterial soap, anti-bacterial ointment, bandages, gauze, and tape.



Conclusion: Always work safely and avoid injuries such as cuts or abrasions. Quickly clean and protect any cuts or abrasions when they do occur. Utilize these safety guidelines when there is any possibility of a tetanus infection caused by bacteria in the work environment.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Cherry Hill Glass Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.