TOOLBOX TALKS

***Bloodbourne Pathogen Program***

Working with patients in a health care facility presents a host of potential hazards related to blood or other potentially infectious materials. Because of this OSHA has a bloodborne pathogen standard that requires general worker training as well as a written program. Let’s review the annual requirements of the written program.

* Non-managerial employees responsible for direct patient care who are potentially exposed to injuries from contaminated sharps must be asked to provide information useful to help in the identification, evaluation, and selection of effective engineering and work practice controls. This information shall be documented in the Exposure Control Plan.
* A managerial employee must reviewed and updated at least annually and whenever necessary to reflect new or modified tasks and procedures that affect occupational exposure, and to reflect new or revised employee positions with occupational exposure.
* Annual re-training in the standard is required for all employees and shall be provided within one year of their previous training.
* An employee of the facility is required to generate a sharps injury log.

A template to help an employer develop their own program outlines these and the other requirements of the standard is available as a word document from MOSH Consultation Services.