

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	AS0031
Subject:	Protection From Blood-Borne Pathogens
Date:	February 2008

Incident:

An employee sustained a serious laceration to his wrist when a tray he was carrying slipped. He was treated by a first-aider and another employee. Both came into contact with the casualty's blood (on their hands). Later tests found that the injured employee was infected by Hep.B.



Key Lessons:

- ***To remind all First Aiders of the correct procedures to protect them selves from contracting blood-borne pathogens when assisting casualties in the work place.***

Recommendations:

- When providing first aid, your safety comes first.
- Where possible have the casualty hold pressure on the wound to stem the flow of blood prior to treatment.
- Avoid contact with any bodily fluids.
- Wear surgical gloves when treating wounds.
- Clean up contaminated surfaces with a disinfectant such as household bleach freshly diluted 1:10 with water.
- In situations where it is possible that a person has become infected seek medical assessment.

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