



Safety Essentials

BBP, Housekeeping, PPE, and Near Miss Reporting

This month covers four safety fundamentals that work together every shift: Blood Borne Pathogens awareness, good housekeeping, proper PPE use, and near miss reporting. Together, these four practices address the most common sources of preventable workplace injury.

THE FOUR FUNDAMENTALS

Blood Borne Pathogens	Treat all blood and body fluids as infectious. Use PPE whenever contact is possible.
Housekeeping	Clean aisles, secured materials, and managed cords prevent slips, trips, and fires.
PPE	Wear the correct PPE for your task. Inspect it before every shift. Replace damaged gear immediately.
Near Miss Reporting	A near miss today is a serious injury tomorrow. Report every close call without delay.

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

Blood borne pathogens are microorganisms transmitted through the bloodstream. HBV and HIV are examples.

Universal Precautions

- Treat ALL human blood and body fluids as if they are infectious.
- Apply this standard in every situation where contact with blood or body fluids is possible.
- Wear appropriate PPE (gloves, eye protection) whenever blood exposure is possible.

Routes of Exposure

- Cuts from contaminated sharps: knives, hooks, or sharp edges.
- Contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth) or broken skin.

HOUSEKEEPING



Daily Rules

- Keep all aisles, exits, and emergency equipment clear at all times.
- Do not lean pallets against walls. Clean under floor mats regularly.
- Store drums upright with like chemicals together, on spill containment.
- Route cords to avoid trip hazards. Hang hoses when not in use.
- Combustible dust must not exceed 1/8 inch thickness on any surface.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

PPE is the last line of defense. It must be worn correctly and for the full duration of every task.

Know which PPE is required for your task before starting.

Inspect gear at the start of every shift. Replace damaged items immediately.

Do not share PPE items that contact skin.

NEAR MISS REPORTING

A near miss is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage but had the potential to do so. Only a fortunate break in the chain of events prevented harm.

Why Reporting Matters

- Near miss reporting significantly improves safety culture and prevents future incidents.
- Near misses predict serious, fatal, and catastrophic incidents that are less frequent but far more harmful.
- Reporting near misses helps identify faulty processes before they cause injury.

See something. Say something. Report near misses every time.

DAILY SAFETY ESSENTIALS CHECKLIST

Run through this before every shift.



- ☐ PPE inspected, correct for my task, and worn properly
- ☐ Work area and aisle clear of all obstructions
- ☐ No loose blades or unsecured materials on work surfaces
- ☐ Blood or body fluid spills handled with Universal Precautions
- ☐ Personal items stored in designated areas only
- ☐ Any near misses or close calls reported to supervisor
- ☐ Chemical drums upright and on spill containment
- ☐ Common areas left clean after use

This document is part of the Meat Institute Worker Safety Series, supporting Reporting Metric A4: Supervisors lead safety huddles and toolbox chats regularly with hourly workers.

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