

Policies on personal safety equipment for bus and shelter cleaning

Information compiled on March 14, 2008

The Question: What kind of personal safety equipment do you provide to employees responsible for bus and shelter cleaning? What kind of equipment do you use to dispose of syringes? Do you have specific procedures for disposing of items contaminated by blood or body fluids?

Ben Franklin Transit says...At Ben Franklin Transit we currently contract out the cleaning of our bus shelters. We do use maintenance employees (Washer/Cleaners) to clean the inside of our buses. The PPE we supply to our maintenance workers include the following: Clean-up absorbent packs, disposable apron, disposable goggles, disposable gloves, biohazard plastic bags, disposable towels, chlorhexidine toiles, disposable shoe covers, and disposable face masks. Rarely any syringes have been found on board a bus, but when they are they're placed in an approved sharps container.

Clallam Transit says...We supply employees with gloves, eye protection, and reimburse for boots and work wear. They also have bio-hazard kits and bleach for clean up. If employee finds syringe, they use a temporary sharps container such as a plastic pop bottle with lid and then transfer to the sharps container at the shop. If at a scene, we try to get the medics to dispose of. If not, we will transport contaminated material in a bag marked so to the landfill and the attendant directs us where to dispose. All the employees must complete Bloodborne Pathogens training.

CUBS says....CUBS contracts the cleaning of shelter to another local company.

Everett Transit says...Safety vests are available for the shelter cleaners and/or they can have reflective material sewn onto their jackets. We have sharps disposal canisters for syringes. I don't know of any specific procedures for disposing of items that have been established.

Grays Harbor Transit says...Our shelter people wear orange vests, gloves and safety goggles depending on what kind of cleaning they are doing. (Pressure washing etc.) We buy sharps containers from a local medical supply store for syringes and we use the "mess kits" that have the absorbent material, gloves and the red biohazard bags.

Island Transit says...I issue each person (Operator and facilities maintenance) a personal protection kit. I have a quart zip lock bag and inside I put a procedural ear loop face mask, pair of powder free latex exam gloves, two Vionex antiseptic towelettes, and a red biohazard bag. All of these can be bought at Moore Medical. I also issue a 2ounce bottle of Purell instant hand

sanitizer gel. Each First Aid Kit has a CPR mask, Vionex wipes and a red biohazard bag I insert and keep supplied and checked annually. Each vehicle (bus, maintenance, shuttle etc) has some spill granules and broom. The Island County Landfill says we can use any plastic bottle for disposal of needles. We put all biohazard material in a red biohazard bag and put it in the trash as per Island Disposal.

Jefferson Transit says....We supply cleaning personnel with uniforms, foul weather gear and gloves. They are also supplied with plastic gloves for when dealing with litter, cigarette butts, full garbage bags, shelter cleaning products etc. and a garbage picking device so they don't need to touch the trash. In cases of dealing with items contaminated by blood or body fluid cleanup, we keep use kits which provide a disposable outer wear cover, face shield, gloves and shoe covers. All these items along with the biohazard are disposed of in a red 'Biohazard' secured bag.

We have never run into syringe problems. I checked with the local hospital on how to dispose of the "Biohazard" bag and believe it or not, they said put them in the trash.

Mason Transit says...At MTA we provide the basic safety wear items (gloves, safety glasses, rain gear, rubber boots, etc.) As far as sharps or other hazardous disposal goes, we follow Mason County Health Department procedures. We do have access to the Incinerator at Mason General Hospital but have not had to use it. The county health department has been a great source for information.

Pierce Transit says...We provide flagging vests, gloves, safety glasses, face shields, ear plugs/muffs, and specialized needle resistant gloves. For syringe disposal we have issued EZ reach garbage grabber tongs. We instruct our employees not to touch syringes unless there is a barrier between them and the item. The grabbers add an additional barrier. Syringes are placed in red biohazard buckets and ultimately disposed of through a contracted company. The specific procedures for various Bio's are contained in our BBP policy. It covers a multitude of situations.

Spokane Transit says...PPE is available and it includes rubber or vinyl gloves, N95 respirator, and safety glasses. Jigs, forceps or thongs are used with commercial sharps containers. [Click here](#) to see Procedure For Clean up of Biohazards

Twin Transit says....Twin Transit provides gloves and masks for biohazard cleanups. We don't have any special equipment to dispose of syringes; we usually call the police to come and remove the syringe, or use a dustpan and brush to sweep it into a metal container. All contaminated items are place in red biohazard bags which are then placed in a separate biohazard trash can. The can is periodically emptied at the county transfer station's biohazard station. All employees are trained in BBP and biohazard protective measures and how to safely clean up spills.

Yakima Transit says...Workers are supplied with gloves, and "tongs". Workers are supplied with standard red "sharps containers." (Purchase at any first aid supply outlet.)

Our Bloodborne Pathogen training covers the basics as far as training the employees in proper handling. Transit in Yakima is part of Public Works which also included the City's Refuse Division. Disposal is made by contacting our Refuse Supervisor, and having him pick up the container.