

## Road Kill

Road kill and other animal carcasses can expose workers to **rabies**, **Lyme disease**, **salmonella**, **e-coli** and other pathogens. Improper disposal and failure to decontaminate vehicles, tools and equipment allows exposure to these pathogens.

### Disposal and Decontamination

- Wear gloves.
- Use a long shovel to confirm the animal is dead and to pick up the carcass.
- Place in a double bag.
- Use plastic sheets to wrap up large animals.
- Decontaminate shovel and other items with a 10% bleach solution.
- If there are an unusual number of dead animals contact the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation or Department of Health.

## Rabies

**Rabies** is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the central nervous system. Infected mammals can transmit the virus to other mammals including humans. Once symptoms appear, rabies is almost always fatal.

Rabies is most commonly seen in wild mammals such as raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes.

Typically, rabies is **not** seen in rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, rats and other small rodents.

- Rabid animals behave abnormally; unusually aggressive or tame, staggering or foaming at the mouth.
- If bitten by a suspected rabid animal, wash all wounds thoroughly with soap and water and seek immediate medical attention.
- For more information contact the NYS Department of Health and NYS Department of Labor for special precautions.

**Rabies can remain alive in a dead animal for a few hours to months (if frozen).**

## Sewage

Sewage and wastewater contain bacteria, fungi, parasites and viruses that can cause skin, lung, intestinal and other infections. People pour anything and everything down drains. Sewage can contain toxic or flammable chemicals. Sewage decomposes it consumes oxygen and releases toxic gases that can cause death.

### Employers should:

- Train and educate all workers.
- Provide potable water for drinking and washing.
- Provide a place to change clothing.
- Provide proper equipment (water resistant suit, Hand Protection pg. 24, Eye & Face Protection pg. 23, Respiratory Protection as needed pg. 25).
- Clean areas for eating and drinking.
- Launder and clean clothing and equipment.

### Employees should:

- Wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Keep hands and fingers away from the face.
- Keep vaccines up-to-date.

## Blood

Blood MAY contain infectious organisms that can cause diseases such as hepatitis B, C & HIV. If blood comes in contact with the eyes, mouth, mucous membranes, other non-intact skin or through a needle-stick, immediate action is required. Report the incident to your supervisor and seek appropriate medical attention.

- Always Assume Blood Is Infectious.
- Wear Gloves, Glasses & Other PPE.
- Get Vaccinated For Hepatitis B.

Employers who have workers that have the potential to come into contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials are required to:

- Have an Exposure Control Plan.
- Conduct an assessment and implement safe work practices.
- Provide personal protective equipment.
- Offer employees the Hepatitis B vaccine.
- Provide post-exposure treatment at no cost to the employee.

## Sewage & Blood

# Insects

Several diseases can be spread through biting insects.

**West Nile virus:** Spread by mosquitoes.

Onset: 5-15 days.

Symptoms: skin rash, fever, body & head aches and swollen lymph nodes.

**Lyme disease:** Spread by ticks.

Onset: 3-30 days.

Symptoms: circular red, warm rash with a "bull's-eye" appearance, fever, nausea, muscle and joint pain, swollen nodes and malaise.

**Anaphylactic shock:** Caused by any stinging insect (If allergic carry an epi-pen).

Onset: immediate.

Symptoms: immediate difficulty breathing and swelling.

**Certain tasks such as brush clearing, mowing or cleanup after storms and floods can increase exposure to insects.**

- Wear long sleeved shirts and pants.
- Apply a 20-35% DEET containing insect repellent sparingly to the skin (Use only 100% DEET on clothing or equipment; it is HARMFUL. Do not apply directly to the skin).
- Apply repellent to clothing.
- Tuck pants into socks (ticks). White or lighter color socks will make it easier to spot them.
- Apply double sided tape around ankles (ticks).
- Look for unusual bites and seek medical attention if necessary.



# Poisonous Plants

Poison Ivy



Poison Ivy



Poison Sumac



Poisonous plants can cause allergic reactions if the leaves or stalks are damaged and come in contact with the skin. Some plants can be dangerous if burned. Some plant sap can severely burn the skin. Common in New York are poison ivy / oak, poison sumac, giant hogweed and others.

- Learn which poisonous plants are common in the area.
- Learn to recognize the plants.
- Wear gloves, face protection, long sleeves and pants.
- Immediately wash the affected area with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention if exposed.

Giant Hogweed

