

## **OSHA First Aid Compliance**

OSHA requires employers to "ensure the ready availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of plant health." If the workplace is not close to an infirmary, clinic, or hospital, the regulation requires having a person or persons trained in CPR and first aid on the premises, as well as first-aid supplies. Eye washes and showers must be provided for if there's a danger of exposure to corrosive materials.

### **Management Issues**

**Needs assessment.** The extent of first-aid training you decide to provide depends on such factors as:

- Company size
- Location
- Accessibility of medical services
- Nature of your operation (level of risk)

**Types of emergencies.** Even if your business is one in which work-related accidents are unlikely, you should bear in mind the need for first aid to victims of heart attacks, strokes, or other illnesses. Types of emergencies for which first-aid training can be provided include:

- Loss of breathing
- Bleeding
- Shock
- Broken bones
- Amputated limb
- Eye injuries
- Electrical shock
- Burns
- Chemical Exposure
- Heart Attack
- Heatstroke
- Stroke
- Epileptic Seizure

**First-aid planning.** In addition to determining your training needs, you must also consider:

- Locations of first-aid kits
- Person responsible for checking and maintaining kits
- Coverage/availability of at least one trained person at all times

## **Training Issues**

- At a minimum, all employees must know whom to call for help and what to do in an emergency. Beyond that, some employees may need:
- Basic first-aid training
- CPR training
- Universal precautions training

## **Take Action**

Encourage employees to get first-aid training and CPR training at your local Red Cross chapter.