

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
Operations Division
Health Services Section Policy and Procedure #P-D-04.12

SUBJECT: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR USE OF FORMALIN

POLICY: Safe handling of formalin is essential to minimize the risk of exposure to formaldehyde. Each person involved with the use of formalin is responsible for his/her own safety and compliance with these safety standards. Careful planning and organization are critical to maintaining a safe working environment.

REFERENCES: OAR 437 Division 2 Subdivision Z 1910.1048 Appendix A
NCCHC Standard P-B-02, Environmental Health and Safety
NCCHC Standard P-D-03, Clinic Space, Equipment & Supplies
NCCHC Standard P-D-04, Diagnostic Services

PROCEDURE:

- A. Procedures requiring the use of formalin will be conducted only in areas with an acceptable eyewash facility immediately available. The eye wash station must be able to provide a quantity of water sufficient to thoroughly cleanse the eyes until no evidence of chemical exposure remains.
- B. Contact of formalin to the employees' eyes and skin when handling containers of formalin, will be prevented by use of the personal protective equipment gloves and goggles.
- C. Should an employees' skin or eyes come in contact with formalin, they are to immediately flush the skin and/or eyes until no evidence of chemical exposure remains.
- D. Personal protective equipment contaminated with formalin will be disposed of in hot trash containers.
- E. Employees with formalin exposure to the eyes and appreciable exposure to the skin will be referred for medical care and follow-up. Employee exposure to formalin will be reported to the Health Service Manager and the institution safety officer and an accident report completed.

Effective Date: _____
Revision date: April 2007
Supersedes P&P dated: March 2006