C.  FACILITY OPERATIONS (MAINTENANCE) AND HOUSING MAINTENANCE

The following work tasks may be conducted by employees who perform plumbing tasks. These tasks are considered Collateral Duty. The individuals are not expected to have occupational exposure to blood/OPIM as a part of their required job duties, and therefore are not covered under the standard. Biological Safety Awareness training, which includes awareness of Bloodborne Pathogens, is offered for informational purposes on a regular basis. The Hepatitis B vaccine is offered post exposure to all individuals who have an exposure to blood or OPIM. The hepatitis B vaccine is offered pre-exposure in some cases based on department policy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORK TASK</th>
<th>POTENTIAL EXPOSURE SITUATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairing sanitary fixtures and sewer lines.</td>
<td>Contact with blood or OPIM. Contact with sharps found in drains or sanitary fixtures.</td>
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</table>

Safe Work Practices for Plumbers

- Wear gloves whenever touching blood, bodily fluids, mucous membranes, or non-intact skin while conducting operations.
- Wear gloves when handling items or surfaces obviously contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids.
- Wash hands and other skin surfaces immediately and thoroughly with water and soap or antiseptic cleaner if contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids.
- Wash hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- Immediately clean areas and equipment that become contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids with a fresh (mixed within 24 hours) bleach solution of one part household bleach to nine parts of water.
- Immediately, or as soon as is feasible, remove clothing which becomes contaminated with blood or other bodily fluids. Keep contaminated clothing separate from other clothing until properly laundered.
- Flush piping with excess water (hot water, if available) prior to maintenance of drain piping if possible.
- If drain traps must be removed, disassemble carefully and inspect contents for human blood or OPIM and sharps.
- Immediately place any sharp objects (needles, razors, broken glass) into sharps containers, and non-sharp objects (bandages) into biohazard disposal bags.
- Handle contaminated material, especially sharps, with tongs.

**Special notations for plumbers:** Most of the body fluids directed into the sanitary system are not regulated under the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. However, because several diseases are associated with exposure to sewage, certain employees who are involved in drain plumbing activities must be provided equipment to prevent contact with this type of material. Employees who clear sanitary drain blockages with plungers are not considered occupationally-exposed to human blood or OPIM unless visible blood or other regulated body fluid is present in the work area. Appropriate PPE (gloves, eye protection, boots, etc.) shall be available to any worker clearing a blockage in sanitary drain systems.