

TEST ANSWERS: BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

The *BSO Plus Safety Topic* is a review designed from the BSO Plus agenda. This safety topic is your way to stay current on the safety information over the 3 years between BSO Plus and BSR.

1. Identify which of the following is an example of indirect contact of a biological agent:

- a. Inhaling airborne droplets dispersed from an infected person
- b. Absorbing body fluid from an infected person
- c. Hand to hand contact transferring an infectious agent
- d. Drinking from an unwashed glass that contains an infectious agent

RATIONALE: Direct contact occurs when infected blood or body fluid from one person enters another person's body at an entry site, such as infected blood splashing in the eye. Indirect contact occurs when a person's skin touches an object that contains the blood or body fluid of an infected person, such as picking up soiled dressings contaminated with an infected person's blood or body fluid and enters either through broken skin or is transferred to a mucous membrane, such as the eye.

1. Identify the possible sources of biological hazards. (Circle all that apply)

- a. Bacteria
- b. Airborne viruses
- c. Insects
- d. Birds

RATIONALE: Sources of biological hazards may include bacteria, viruses, insects, plants, birds, animals, and other humans.

1. Biological hazards can cause which of the following health effects: (Circle all that apply)

- a. Skin irritation
- b. Allergies
- c. Chronic disease
- d. Death

RATIONALE: Biological hazards can cause a variety of health effects ranging from skin irritation and allergies to infections, chronic diseases, and even death.

1. Workers exposed to airborne biological hazards may suffer from which potential health effect(s)? (Circle all that apply)

a. Influenza

b. Hepatitis B

c. Common cold

d. West Nile virus

RATIONALE: Biological hazards can be found in the workplace in several different areas. Exposure to bloodborne diseases can occur anywhere on the jobsite from an office to out in the field, and your risk increases if blood and bodily fluids are present on hard or soft surfaces. Biological hazards that come from plants, insects, birds or bacteria can be found in the workplace in standing or contaminated water, through ventilation systems, or when people work outdoors.

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be considered the last line of defence for protecting workers from biological hazards.

a. True

b. False

RATIONALE: Standard precautions include maintaining personal hygiene, such as handwashing, using PPE, engineering controls, work practice controls, worker training, and proper equipment cleaning and spill cleanup procedures.