

MARION COUNTY SAFETY PLAN
ANNEX H – MEDICAL AND FIRST AID SERVICES

Overview

While most emphasis is placed on the prevention of accidents and injuries, accidents are still going to occur. Prompt, knowledgeable treatment of injuries from an accident will in many cases prevent these minor injuries from becoming a major injury, resulting in lost time for the employee and the County. This is more of the reason why employees should be trained in CPR and first aid.

Training

OSHA encourages and in some cases requires employees to be trained in CPR and first aid. SC OSHA has issued a program directive that requires employers to have CPR and first aid readily available to injured employees within three (3) minutes or three (3) miles. This means that CPR and first aid must be administered within three (3) minutes of the injury or you must be located within three miles of an emergency medical facility.

Although the County operates an EMS service, these services will not always be available. There are days when EMS response times will be elevated, or a unit may not be available at all due to high call volume. In this situation, having the appropriate first aid skills could be invaluable.

Employees who are designated to provide first aid care should be trained on the following as a minimum:

1. Treatment of shock due to injury, allergic reaction and fainting.
2. Bleeding control and intervention.
3. Chemical and poisoning information and treatment.
4. Assessing the severity of burns and determining the appropriate intervention.
5. Treatment for temperature extremes – exposure to cold and heat injuries.
6. Treatment of musculoskeletal injuries
7. Handling of other medical emergencies including; heart attack, stroke, asthma, diabetic emergencies and seizures.

Department heads should encourage all employees to participate in CPR and first aid training. If training is desired, please contact the County Risk Manager and a training session can be setup with certified instructors.

Department Responsibilities

Department heads and supervisors must conduct careful evaluations of their work areas and determine the appropriate level of medical training/protection for their employees. Many injuries can be effectively treated in the field with proper first aid. This saves the County from experiencing a costly trip to the doctor's office or emergency room. However, never hesitate to call 911 in the event that an injury occurs.

All department heads should insure that their department has a fully stocked first aid kit. Weekly inspections are encouraged to insure that all necessary items are stocked in the first aid kit.