

🎵 **Doctor, Doctor....Give Me the News** 🎵
Doctor? Now lumber yards need to employ doctors????

Well, not quite.....but somewhat along those lines. Let's break this down and see what the truth is:

OSHA First Aid Standard

The OSHA First Aid Standard for General Industry (29 CFR 1910.151) requires trained first-aid providers at all workplaces of any size if there is no "infirmary, clinic, or hospital in ***near proximity*** to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees." How do they define "near proximity"? In a letter of clarification referenced below, OSHA indicates help should be 3-4 min away.

So.....if you're more than 4 min from Emergency Medical Service (EMS), you don't need to employ a doctor but you will need a first aid kit and will need to designate and train someone as a first responder.

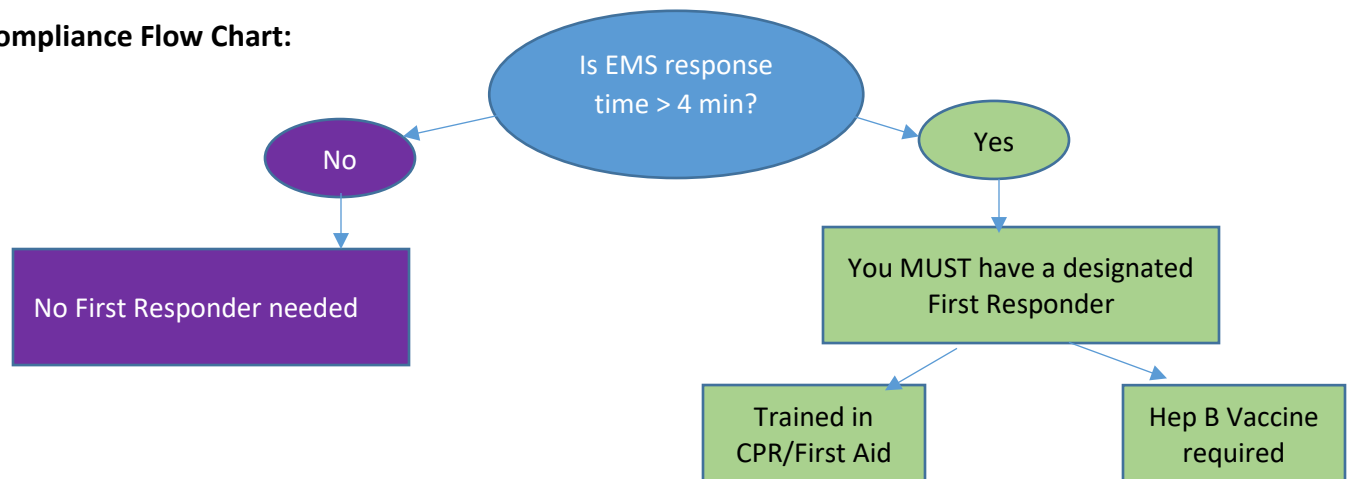
OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard

We must assume that anyone who is designated as a first responder in a lumber yard is at risk of being exposed to blood. The bloodborne pathogens standard (29 CFR 1910.1030(g)(2) requires employers to provide training to any employees who have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials, such as employees assigned medical or first aid duties by their employers.

If you have a designated first responder, you must follow the bloodborne pathogen standard and have them vaccinated against Hepatitis B at company expense.

Employees who perform "Good Samaritan" acts are not covered by this standard, although OSHA would encourage an employer to offer follow-up procedures to an employee who experiences an exposure incident as the result of performing a "Good Samaritan" act. The key to this issue is not whether employees have been trained in first aid, but whether they are also designated as responsible for rendering medical assistance. While many workers may be trained in first aid and CPR, not all of these employees would necessarily be designated to render first aid.

Compliance Flow Chart:



Do you find yourself in need of a First Responder? No need to panic, BMSA's Safety Specialist Barb Strickland is trained to teach the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED class and will come to your site to teach a first timer's class or the fast-track renewal class.

Call Barb at the BMSA office for more detailed information: (800) 849-1503

Sources:

OSHA letter of clarification: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2007-01-16-0>

Bloodborne Pathogen letter of clarification: <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1992-10-22>