October 2024

Dear SAFETY Leaders:

**A blue and orange shield with white text

Description automatically generatedEarn Valuable Rewards**

We're thrilled to announce our newly refreshed [Safety Ambassador program](https://waretailservices.com/safety/safety-ambassador-program/) (SAP), designed not only to help your company achieve safety compliance but also to move toward a premier safety culture. Thank you to all the members who expressed interest in this initiative after attending our recent [safety webinar](https://vimeo.com/1008976046/7821623946).

If you missed the webinar, don’t worry! We encourage you to explore the attached graphic, which outlines and explains the four tiers of this program. This is a fantastic opportunity to earn valuable rewards while elevating safety practices within your organization.

Don’t miss out—start unlocking rewards today through improved safety!

A chart of a work safety culture

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**Take the First Step Toward Safety Excellence!** Begin your journey by completing the Safety Leadership Evaluation, an exclusive opportunity for Retro Program members. Once you’ve submitted the survey, simply email us at safety@waretailservices.com, and we’ll follow up with you shortly to guide you through the next steps.

**A close-up of a person writing on a paper

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**Seek immediate medical care is a smart policy**

One important lesson your Safety Team at Retail Services learned from our Claims Team is the cost of delayed medical attention. Workers may feel alright immediately after an incident and refuse to seek medical treatment. Many of these “minor” injuries often get worse, but the delay in seeking immediate medical care could result in worsening condition that could have been avoided.

Adopt a company policy that requires prompt medical care is essential to address injuries, prevent complications, and comply with workplace safety regulations.

Policy form [here](https://waretailservices.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Policy-Form-compressed.pdf)

Red blood cells in a blood vessel

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**Blood Borne Pathogens**

You may think that only hospital workers or EMTs are at risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens, but other environments are as well. Work injuries and puncture wound hazards are opportunities for contact. These often come from performing regular housekeeping chores. It is essential to remain observant and careful when exposed to blood or other bodily fluids in the workplace. Lack of caution with Blood Borne Pathogens can lead to disease spread.

**If needles are found in restrooms** or around the perimeter of the store, the rule from [WAC 296-823-13005](https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=296-823-13005) states you must provide bloodborne pathogen training to exposed employees, make hepatitis B vaccines available to all employees, and ensure a [**sharps box**](https://www.amazon.com/Container-Sharpstar-Room-Mailbox-Lid/dp/B00589U512/ref=sr_1_13?ie=UTF8&qid=1536678439&sr=8-13&keywords=sharps%2Bbox%2Bfor%2Bneedles&th=1)**es** are installed in every restroom to help protect your employees and customers.

**Related resources:**

* RS webinar on [“A Guide to Needles in a Retail Environment.”](https://vimeo.com/330863022)
* For safety meeting presentation information, click [here](http://wisha-training.lni.wa.gov/training/trainingkits/BloodbornePathogens/BBPHandouts.pdf).
* [RS SafetyTV](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-_I4binSRgny8XpQIP_4eTOQDpOmGbDt) has a video on this subject.
* Other helpful information from the Center for Disease Control is available [here](https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/healthcare/risk-factors/bloodborne-infectious-diseases.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/bbp/genres.html).



**Portable fire extinguishers are the first line of defense**

Fire extinguishers can often prevent a potential disaster with ease when used correctly. Even if your company has automatic sprinklers or other means of fire protection, it is critical to ensure your portable fire extinguishers have regular inspections and a recharging program to ensure that they are fully operational. Also, ensure the capacity is adequate for the size of your operation and that your employees know how to use them. [WAC CODE 296-800-300](https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-800-300) dives further into the rules that you must obey in the workplace.

The links below will provide basic fire extinguisher operation, explaining the PASS method of putting out a small fire:

* [RS SafetyTV](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg-vibNXNkw)has videos on how to use and the [Safety Library](https://waretailservices.com/safety/safety-library-table-of-contents/)has additional information for your safety meeting.
* The **SAFEME** app has a module on [Fire Extinguisher](https://wrasafeme.org/lesson/fire-safety-101/) that makes a great refresher course!

A light shining through a window

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**Engine Lift Chains**

If you have engine hoists that require a lifting chain to get the motor or another heavy part out of the vehicle, **you must use a specific chain type**. L&I Safety and Health Division considers these as rigging chains described in [WAC 296-24-29423](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-24-29423)(1). When using engine lifts with a random chain, you are most likely **not** in compliance with the safety rule. You need a *specific chain material* – alloy grade 80 or 100 – tested under American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. This type of chain will be tagged or have a specific stamp designating load weight and chain material. You may already have an equipment supplier for obtaining this type of chain.

Let me know if you have any questions or need further safety assistance.

Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.

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