

Guidance for First-Aid Kits for Animal Research Facilities

In accordance with OSHA regulation CFR 1910.151¹ “ In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid. First aid supplies are required to be readily available [in the workplace]”.

While the standards do not prescribe a number of minutes, OSHA has long interpreted the term ‘near proximity’ to mean that emergency care must be available within no more than 3-4 minutes from the workplace. Emergency medical services are available within this necessary proximity for the majority of the UW-Madison animal facilities.

The term “readily available” can be open for interpretation, but general considerations for locating first-aid kits in an easily accessible area should be taken into account. For UW-Madison animal research facilities, one first-aid kit will be located in each functional area (floor/wing/etc.) in a central location that is easily accessible (break room/garb station/etc.). Proper signage indicating the location of the first-aid kit will be posted.

The facility must manage the ordering and upkeep of first aid kits and kit supplies. The facility should inspect their first aid kits on a regular schedule checking for expired items. Environment, Health and Safety will inspect the first aid kits as a part of the regular IACUC facility inspections approximately every six months.

An example of the minimal contents of a generic first aid kit is described in the American National Standard **(ANSI) Z308.1**² “Minimum Requirements for Workplace First-aid Kits”. This standard has not been adopted by OSHA, but is an acceptable general guideline for the minimum components of an office first-aid kit.

We have adapted and condensed the ANSI standard into an acceptable list of contents (below) that will cover the immediate medical attention for all foreseeable first-aid needs that arise from our research with animals, including additional supplies for bites, scratches, and exposures.

First-Aid Kit Supplies
Adhesive Bandages
Adhesive Tape Rolls (optional)
Alcohol Prep Pads (note may expire)
Compress Cold Pack or ice packs in freezer
Gauze Pads (sterile, multiple sizes)
Bandage scissors (optional)
Triple Antibiotic Ointment (optional, may expire)

Additional Supplies for Bites/Scratches/Exposures for Non-Human Primates:
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4% CHG E-Z Scrub (Chlorhexidine gluconate)
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Timer (for scrubbing)

Employers who have unique first-aid needs in their workplace may need to enhance their first-aid kits (i.e. farming facilities vs. general vivarium). For these situations, contact Animal Research Safety with any questions. <http://www.ehs.wisc.edu/animalresearchsafety.htm>

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Occupational Safety and Health Standards, Standard Number 1910.151 App A https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=9807
2. American National Standard (ANSI), Minimum Requirements for Workplace First Aid Kits, ANSI Z308.1