



## Avoiding Hazards with Using Cleaners On Medical Equipments Part II and Real World Driver Behavior



### Avoiding Hazards with Using Cleaners and Disinfectants on Electronic Medical Equipment II

How do we avoid these hazards? Review your equipment management policies and determine that everyone involved knows their responsibilities. Other steps the FDA recommended:

One goal of cleaning is to disinfect frequently touched surfaces to stop cross-transmission of infections. In this context cleaning includes disinfection and decontamination. Surface and equipment may be contaminated with blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIMs), such as;

- Identify pertinent equipment (Actually read the labels and user manuals. When you buy equipment ask the salesman for specific instructions in writing if they are not contained in the manual.)
- Review the manufacturer's cleaning and maintenance instructions and ensure that all staff are trained and follow these instructions. Keep proper training records.
- Protect equipment from contamination whenever possible. Use engineering controls and careful work practices, such as minimizing touching of equipment with contaminated or gloved hands, positioning equipment out of the line of fire, and avoiding placing contaminated items on uncontaminated surfaces.
- If you suspect that equipment is contaminated, clean it following the equipment manufacturer's recommendations and those of the cleaner's manufacturer.
- Always follow the chemical manufacturer's warnings, precautions, cautions and directions. It can be a violation of Federal law to use a disinfectant in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.
- If equipment is contaminated with blood or OPIM, you must follow OSHA regulations in decontamination. Note the OSHA definition: "Contaminated means the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface."



### Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI): Real World Driver Behavior

As you read this information, ask yourself, "Do we make a conscious effort to avoid risk by avoiding these behaviors? Do these numbers match what you're seeing?" Note that you don't need to be a provider of emergency ambulance service for these numbers to be important to you.

VTTI performed a "100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study" using 100 vehicles equipped with video and sensor devices to track the behavior of drivers for a year. There were 241 drivers who logged 2,000,000 miles and 42,300 hours of data. There were 82 crashes, 761 near crashes, and 8,295 critical incidents. Driver inattention within three seconds of the event was shown to be the leading factor in 80% of crashes and 65% of near crashes.

Key findings included:

- Drowsiness increases the risk of a crash or near crash by a factor of 4.
- Cell phone use is the most common distraction. (NHTSA indicates that the cognitive distraction of both hands-free or hand-held cell phones degrades driving performance. Key audio and visual cues needed to avoid a crash are missed.)
- Reaching for a moving object increases the risk of a crash 9 times
- Looking at an external object 3.7 times
- Reading 3 times
- Applying makeup 3 times
- Dialing a hand held device 3 times
- Talking on or listening to a hand held device 1.3 times

It should be noted that drivers who frequently engage in distracting activities (Think they mean drivers with bad habits?) are more likely to have a crash or near-crash. One of the study conclusions is that drivers really can't predict when it's a good time to engage in an unsafe practice while driving, because driving conditions change so abruptly.

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