First, let's revisit OSHA's first-aid regulation 1910.151(a):
Employers (regardless of size or industry) shall ensure the ready availability of medical personnel for advice and consultation on matters of plant health. 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. Adequate first-aid supplies shall be readily available. Where the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.

Q. How does OSHA exactly figure out if a nearby clinic is adequate or if first-aid training and supplies are needed?
A. "In areas where accidents resulting in suffocation, severe bleeding, or other life threatening injury or illness can reasonably be expected, a 3 to 4 minute response time, from time of injury to time of administering first aid, is required...[W]here a life-threatening injury is an unlikely outcome, ...a 15 minute response time is acceptable." (Roger A. Clark, Director, Directorate of Compliance Programs, OSHA)

OK... having first-aid kits around seems easy enough....
But...not all first-aid kits are created equal. Having a variety of Band-Aids, gauze, and tape doesn't "cut it" anymore (pun intended! Ha!). The soon-to-be-outdated 2009 first-aid kit rules specify having a “basic” first-aid kit and then only “recommend” having first-aid kits that are much better stocked to handle more kinds and severity of injuries.
First-aid kit life is getting more serious now.

![Image showing comparison between 2009 and 2016 first-aid kits]

The new June 2016 rules require employers to have at least two kinds of first-aid kits, **Type A and Type B**. These kits need to be properly located and stocked everywhere employees are working.

The two classes of first-aid kits are based on the assortment and quantity of first-aid supplies.

- **Class A first-aid kits** are designed to deal with most common workplace injuries, such as minor cuts, abrasions and sprains.
- **Class B first-aid kits** include a broader range and quantity of supplies to deal with injuries in more complex and high-risk environments.

**Q.** When and where do you put Class A + Class B First-Aid Kits?

**A.** First-Aid Kit Tips!

**Class A kits** should be placed pretty much everywhere people are working - offices, warehouses, job sites, vehicles, production areas, maintenance shops - you get the idea.

Since **Class B kits** are more specialized, they are needed at locations where employees perform work that exposes them to certain kinds of injuries more often or more severely. Here are four great tips to help you figure this out.

- **TIP #1:** use your OSHA 300/301 log and incident investigation reports to figure out what additional items could be useful to have in your Class B first-aid kits.
- **TIP #2:** another good idea is to get with your local EMT agency and let them take a look at your facilities and work tasks. They know first-aid kits like nobody else. Perhaps you can combine emergency response planning with them at the same time – reviewing hazardous materials storage locations/quantities and emergency evacuation procedures.
• TIP #3: what about an AED? Federal OSHA recommends an automated external defibrillator (AED) be considered. (Since 2010, Oregon businesses with 50,000 square feet or more that have at least 25 individuals around on a normal business day are required to have an Automated External Defibrillator on their premises. The law includes a Good Samaritan clause that bars lawsuits from the use of an AED.)

• TIP #4: the last good first-aid tip: if you can anticipate that your employees will be exposed to blood or other potentially infectious body fluids while giving first-aid to employees or doing other work (handling glass, sharp metal, nursing, etc.), then there should absolutely be BBP PPE gloves, gowns, face shields, masks, eye protection, and clean-up supplies/tools in the first-aid kits (BBP kits work great too).

First-Aid + CPR + AED + BBP
Get your safety training done sooner than later.

Below are the detailed lists of first-aid kit contents by kit class type A and B.

As always, feel free to give us a call or send an email if you have questions, suggestions... or just want a little extra help!

By the way, we have **online** safety and HR training now! We're making life better for Clients all the time! :)

*Have a great "Safety Month!"*

Class A First-aid Kits

16 - Adhesive Bandages, 1" x 3"
1 - Adhesive Tape 2.5 yd
10 - Antibiotic Treatment Application, 1/57 oz
10 - Antiseptic Applications 1/57 oz
1 - Breathing Barrier
1 - Burn Dressing, gel soaked, 4" x 4"
10 - Burn Treatment, 1/32 oz
1 - Cold Pack
2 - Eye Covering
1 - Eye Wash, 1 oz.
1 - First-aid Guide
6 - Hand Sanitizer, 0.9g
2 - Pair Exam Gloves
1 - Roller Bandage, 2" x 4 yds
1 - Scissors
2 - Sterile Pad, 3" x 3"
2 - Trauma Pad, 5" x 9"
1 - Triangular Bandage, 40" x 40" x 56"

Class B First-aid Kits

50 - Adhesive Bandages, 1" x 3"
2 - Adhesive Tape 2.5 yd
25 - Antibiotic Treatment Application, 1/57 oz
50 - Antiseptic Applications 1/57 oz
1 - Breathing Barrier
2 - Burn Dressing, gel soaked, 4" x 4"
25 - Burn Treatment, 1/32 oz
2 - Cold Pack
2 - Eye Covering
1 - Eye Wash, 4 oz.
1 - First-aid Guide
10 - Hand Sanitizer, 0.9g
4 - Pair Exam Gloves
2 - Roller Bandage, 2" x 4 yds
1 - Roller Bandage, 4" x 4 yds
1 - Scissors
1 - Splint - min 4" x 24"
4 - Sterile Pad, 3" x 3"
1 - Tourniquet
4 - Trauma Pad, 5" x 9"
2 - Triangular Bandage, 40" x 40" x 56"

Add more and different supplies to Class B Kits based on the injury exposures of employees.

Let Safety Northwest LLC help you create a safe environment for your staff, contractors and visitors by developing a Safety Management System that meets the requirements of the current Occupational Safety and Health legislation.