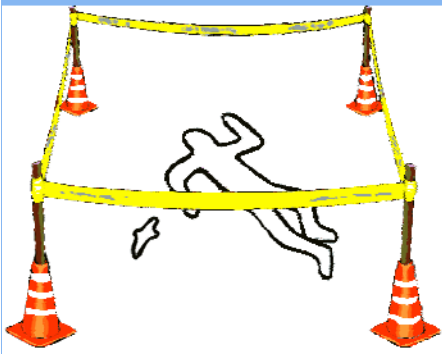


Additional Recommendations

- Find a reputable company with experience and qualifications to handle bloodborne pathogens.
- Ask if the company is bonded.
- Consider getting quotes for services from several companies as prices may vary considerably.
- Check with your Better Business Bureau to determine if any complaints are on file for the company you are considering.
- Discuss with the company how it will dispose of the biological waste.
- Ask if the company provides a grief counselor if this service is important to you.
- Ask if the company's services are covered by insurance companies.



Our Mission

Provide leadership and services for San Antonio and Bexar County to prevent illness and injury, promote healthy behaviors, and protect against health hazards.

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District

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San Antonio, Texas 78254

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Crime and Trauma Scene (CTS) Clean-up Guidance



CAUTION: BIOHAZARD

San Antonio Metropolitan
Health District

General Guidance for Crime Scene Clean-up

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District offers the following information as a service to the public when confronted with the unfortunate situation of cleaning up a crime scene in your home or business.



This brochure provides guidance for biological crime scenes but the reader should be aware crime scenes may also involve chemicals

or explosives handled in close partnership with HazMat and law enforcement.

The generic terms for crime scene cleanup include trauma cleaning, bio-recovery, crime and trauma scene decontamination, CTS Decon, blood cleanup and bio cleaning. A crime scene cleanup may involve a single blood loss event following a burglary, assault, or homicide or could involve events on a much larger scale. Companies also clean areas following suicides, unattended deaths, and other crime and trauma scenes.

Federal regulations deem all bodily fluids to be biohazards, so any blood or tissue at a crime scene is considered a potential source of infection. You need special knowledge to safely handle biohazardous material and to know what to look for at the scene. Only companies with specific permits to transport and dispose of biohazardous waste should be utilized.



Questions and Answers

1. Where can I find someone to clean up a crime scene that has occurred at my home or business?

The best place to start would be to look in the Yellow Pages of the phone book under "Crime & Trauma Scene Clean Up." In San Antonio, there are several companies listed providing this specialized service.

2. Can I have an employee of my business clean the scene?

Federal Regulation 29CFR1910.1030 states that no employee can be placed in a position to be exposed to blood spills without first:

- Receiving bloodborne pathogen (BBP) training.
- Having a written BBP exposure control plan.
- Having been provided personal protective equipment.
- Having been offered Hepatitis B vaccine and exposure evaluation and follow-up.
- Being provided with a method to remove and properly store the bio-hazardous waste in properly marked containers for disposal at an approved site.

Only after these five steps have been met can an employee be required by his or her employer to clean a bio-hazardous/crime scene.

3. Can't I just use my regular cleaning or janitorial service to clean up blood or pathological waste?

You can IF you are absolutely positive that your janitorial service is fully compliant with the five OSHA requirements listed above. You cannot legally shift responsibility for proper remediation to another person. You remain liable for fines and penalties and possible legal actions by employees.

4. Who pays for bio-recovery services?

Ultimately, the property owner is responsible for the cost of this service. In most cases, however, home, business or auto insurance will pay for bio-recovery services. If the victim of a crime has no insurance, there might be assistance available from one of the agencies listed below.

5. Is the CTS industry regulated?

There are no national regulations for the CTS Decon industry, but there are organizations that promote standards as well as certain government regulations that cleaners have to follow. Those include the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standards, which are guidelines for handling biohazardous material and the proper use of personal protection equipment; and individual state guidelines such as those provided by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which regulates the transport of hazardous materials in Texas.

Generally recognized organizations for this field of cleaning include the American Bio-recovery Association (ABRA) and the Institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC). Look for a company that has these types of recognitions and qualifications.

Please note: the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District does not provide these services.

Helpful Numbers

Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse
1-800-848-4284

San Antonio Police Department
Victim Advocacy
(210) 207-2141

FBI - San Antonio Field Office
(210) 225-6741

Office of the Attorney General
Crime Victim Services Division
1-800-983-9933