

Potential Hazard Review

Physical Hazards

- Caught in/on/between; pinch points
- Striking against

Related Safe Work Practices

- Injury and Illness Reporting and Management

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This SWP is dedicated to helping you avoid a dog bite or other dog-related injury. You are advised to follow these recommendations, read and follow this SWP and any related SWPs, complete any required or recommended training, and to obtain advice from a Qualified Person if you have any questions.

A Qualified Person is a person **designated** by the employer; and by reason of **training**, experience, or instruction who has demonstrated the ability to perform safely all assigned duties; and, when required is properly licensed in accordance with federal, state, or local laws and regulations.

All tasks require that you:

- Use the equipment in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the manufacturer. This includes following all signs and labels, and reviewing any manufacturer's operating manuals.
 - If the instructions provided in the operating manual conflict with this SWP, then follow the instructions in the manual. The manufacturer's instructions prevail over this SWP.
- Review the safety data sheets (SDSs) for each chemical.
- Be trained on this SWP and those listed above as related. Training on SWPs must be completed before initial assignment. It is also recommended that you complete refresher training every two years.

1. Understand how to avoid dog bites. Very few bites happen without provocation – but the provocation may exist only in the dog's mind! Dogs instinctively set up an

invisible “fight or flight” boundary around themselves. The size of this boundary depends on his level of confidence and tolerance. A fearful dog will give itself a wider area than a more stable one. If you startle a sleeping or eating dog, try to pet a dog that doesn’t want to be petted, or otherwise make the dog feel cornered, the dog will bite – an instinctive, not malicious action.

2. A dog that growls, walks away from you, or stiffens his body is giving you a warning. Do not approach closer and do not try to pet him.
3. Remind all owners to keep their dogs on leashes outside of designated dog play areas (DPAs). Dogs found off leashes should be reported to your supervisor.
4. Never allow dogs in the children’s play areas. This is unsafe for small children.
5. Do not:
 - Put your face directly in front of a dog’s face.
 - Touch a dog that is sleeping or eating.
 - Pet strange dogs unless the owner indicates that it is safe.
 - Try to break up dogfights.
6. If confronted by a threatening dog, do the following. The great majority of times, the dog will simply sniff you, determine that you are not a threat and walk away.
 - Stand still with your hands at your sides.
 - Avoid eye contact, which the dog may see as a sign of aggression.
 - Back away slowly.
7. Dogs react instinctively to a small, shrill voice. Use a low, calm voice. Avoid shrieking or screaming. Do not turn and run.
8. If you feel a dog is about to attack, try to put an object such as a bicycle, chair, or table between yourself and the dog. If this isn’t possible, and you can’t fend the dog off, drop to the ground, roll up in a tight ball, and place your hands over ears.
9. If you are bitten:
 - a. Clean the area immediately and thoroughly with soapy water.
 - b. Rinse well and pat the area dry.
 - c. If the skin is broken, you will need to go to the health clinic to determine if stitches, antibiotics, or tetanus and rabies vaccines are necessary.
10. Gather all the information you can. Your report should consist of the name and address of the dog guardian (owner, walker, etc.) at the time of the incident, if possible. This is so SFPD has someone to follow up with. At large dogs (those running free and apparently without an owner or guardian present) may also be

reported to Animal Care and Control (ACC), and ACC will request that SFPD be dispatched to the site.

11. Report all bite incidents to:

- To your supervisor (see *Injury and Illness Management and Reporting*);
- To Animal Care and Control (554-9400); and
- To the SFPD (553-0123)¹.

For any questions, please contact EHS at 415-831-2780.

References:

1. Assembly Bill 265, California Legislature, February 7, 2013.
2. RPD Dog Policy, Resolution No. 0205-001, May 8, 2002

¹ E-mail correspondence from SFPD to EHS on 8/4/06.