

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR BIOHAZARDS

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR BIOLOGICAL SPILLS:

Disinfectant	a disinfectant known to be effective must be used
Contact time	this depends on the size of the spill and nature of the biohazard; large spills of Risk Group 2 agents require a minimum of 20 minutes contact time
Exposure route	know the exposure routes of the agent spilled; e.g. does it infect through inhalation? Is it a bloodborne pathogen?
Viability	how viable is the spilled agent on inanimate objects at room temperature

BASIC SPILL KIT FOR BIOHAZARDS:

- Disinfectant
- Paper towels
- Gloves
- Forceps for broken glass
- Biohazard bucket

SMALL SPILLS

- Wear gloves
- Cover spill with paper towels and disinfectant
- Allow sufficient contact time
- Pick up towels and put in biohazard bucket
- Wipe spill area again with disinfectant
- **WASH HANDS**

LARGER SPILLS (>250 ml):

If Risk Group 1 Agent:

- Use same procedure as for small spills
- **WASH HANDS**

If Risk Group 2 Agent:

- Leave area and close lab door
- If clothing contaminated, remove it, and place in a biohazard bag to be decontaminated later
- **WASH HANDS & EXPOSED SKIN**
- Post a "DO NOT ENTER" sign, and inform your supervisor of the spill
- Put on protective clothing e.g. lab coat, gloves and if required, face shield & shoe covers. Assemble spill kit
- Pick up broken glass with forceps
- Cover spill with paper towels
- **AVOID CREATING AEROSOLS** - pour disinfectant around spill allowing it to mix with the spill. Do not over-dilute the disinfectant
- Allow at least 20 minutes contact time
- Pick up paper towels and put in biohazard bucket

- Clean up liquids, collect all contaminated materials and autoclave
- Wipe spill area again with disinfectant
- **WASH HANDS & EXPOSED SKIN**
- Notify Biosafety Officer (local 5478)

SPILLS IN A BIOLOGICAL SAFETY CABINET:

- Begin chemical disinfectant procedures at once while cabinet continues to operate
- Wear gloves during cleanup
- Wipe all exposed surfaces and equipment with a suitable disinfectant
- If the spill runs from the front exhaust grille into the drain pan and catch basin beneath the work surface, flood with diluted disinfectant and let stand for at least 20 minutes (the dilution will be dependent upon the volume of the spill)
- Remove disinfectant from cabinet through the drain petcock
- Wipe all surfaces again with disinfectant
- Autoclave all contaminated materials
- **WASH HANDS**

EXPOSURE TO INFECTIOUS MATERIAL:

In the event that you, or a co-worker, are exposed to infectious materials, follow these basic procedures:

If Serious Injury:

- Seek medical treatment immediately (Call **911**)
- Call Campus Security Services for assistance (**7599**)
- Notify your lab supervisor and arrange for co-worker to accompany the injured person to medical facility

If Less Serious Injury:

- Decontaminate site immediately with antiseptic disinfectant suitable for external use
- If antiseptic not available, wash thoroughly with soap and lots of water
- Inform lab supervisor; call Campus Security (**7599**) for medical evaluation or further treatment

Note: If splash to the eye or mouth - rinse under running water for 20 minutes in an emergency eye/face wash station, then seek medical help.

FIRES & BIOHAZARDS:

- **If time** - place biohazards in secure location such as incubators or refrigerators so that emergency personnel are not exposed (**Do not jeopardize your safety**)
- Evacuate the building
- Remain at your emergency assembly point to assist with lab-related questions emergency personnel may have

Note: Before a fire occurs, locate your nearest fire extinguisher and fire exits; become familiar with your emergency evacuation site.