

# Emergency Response to Biological Incidents



Response to Biological Spills  
in the Laboratory  
(Intentional or Accidental)

# Exposure Management



For splash to eyes, mucous membranes, or broken area of the skin

- Irrigate eyes with clean water, saline or sterile irrigants
- Flush splashes to mouth, nose, and broken area of skin with water

# Exposure Management

For needle sticks or cuts with human blood, fluids, infectious agents or antibiotic resistant organism

- Flush needle sticks and cuts with soap and water
- Get medical evaluation ASAP
- Inform PI, BSO and health professional (required mandatory reporting of incident)
- Public Health Service has recommendations for post-exposure follow-up



# Spill Clean-Up

You can clean-up a biological spill if:

- You are aware of the hazards and clean-up procedures (training required)
- There is no potential for personal or environmental damage
- The appropriate spill clean-up equipment is available
- One or two people can clean-up the spill thoroughly in less than an hour

Note: Spill incident still needs to be reported to BSO. If spill is in gallons or liters, call BSO.





# Biological Spill Clean-Up Kit- Basic

- Nitrile gloves (double gloving), splash goggles, shoe covers
- Small disposable broom with dustpan, tongs or forceps (for picking up sharps)
- Paper towels or other absorbent in the lab
- Sharps container and/or biohazard waste bags
- Disinfectant agent suitable for the agents in the lab



# Spill Clean-Up for BSL 1-2

## If there is a **spill inside the biosafety cabinet:**

- Keep the BSC running during spill and clean-up to contain aerosol.
- Place absorbent paper on spill and soak with disinfectant.
- Allow 20 minutes of contact time. Wipe up spill, working from the edges to the center. Clean spill areas with fresh paper towels soaked in disinfectant.
- Disinfect the BSC interior and any other equipment in the BSC with disinfectant.
- Discard contaminated disposable materials using appropriate biohazardous waste disposal procedures.
- Place contaminated reusable items in biohazard bags or autoclavable pans before autoclaving.
- Run BSC 10 minutes after clean-up before resuming work or turning BSC off.

**Note: If you are working in a BSC and the power went off in the room or the BSC fan stops blowing, IMMEDIATELY LEAVE THE ROOM.**





# Spill Clean-Up for BSL 1-2

If the spill is **in the laboratory but outside the biosafety cabinet:**

- Call the BSO if the material is RG 2 or greater.
- Clear area of all personnel. Wait at least 30 minutes for aerosol to settle before entering spill area.
- Remove any contaminated clothing and place in biohazard bag to be autoclaved.
- Put on disposable gown, safety glasses and gloves.
- Initiate cleanup with disinfectant as follows:
  - Place dry paper towels on spill then layer a second set of disinfectant soaked paper towels over the spill.
  - Encircle the spill with additional disinfectant being careful to minimize aerosolization while assuring adequate contact.
  - Allow at least a minimum of 20 minutes contact time to ensure germicidal action of disinfectant. Wipe up spill, working from the edges to the center. Clean spill areas with fresh paper towels soaked in disinfectant.
  - Decontaminate all items within the spill area.
  - Discard contaminated disposable materials using appropriate biohazardous waste disposal procedures.

# Spill Clean-Up for BSL 1-2



## **If the spill is outside the laboratory, in transit:**

- To prevent a spill, transport labeled biohazardous material in an unbreakable, well-sealed primary container placed inside of a second unbreakable, lidded container (cooler, plastic pan or pail).
- Should a spill occur in a public area, do not attempt to clean it up without appropriate PPE.
- Secure the area, keeping all people clear of the spill.
- Call the BSO to assist in the clean-up.
- Stand by during spill response and cleanup activity to provide information and assistance.

