
Biological Spill Response

BSL-1 and BSL-2

The following instructions are provided as guidance to researchers responding to a spill involving biohazardous materials (e.g. recombinantly modified organisms, human blood or human cell lines, or cultures containing viable bacteria, viruses, etc.) in a BSL-1 or BSL-2 laboratory setting. Every effort should be made to contain the spill, limit exposure of personnel to biohazards and prevent the release of biohazards from the laboratory.

In the event of a spill:

- Assess personnel involved first. If any biohazardous material gets in your eyes, flush your eyes at the nearest eyewash immediately.
- Remove any contaminated clothing or personal protective equipment (PPE) and wash any exposed areas of skin with soap and water. Put on clean clothing (if necessary) and fresh PPE (i.e., lab coat, gloves, and eye protection) before cleaning the spill.
- Assess the magnitude of the spill, denote the area, and notify others present in the lab.
- Cover the spill with absorbent material (e.g. paper towels, kitty litter, etc.). Consider that the spill may extend farther than you think and may have contaminated other surfaces nearby.
- Apply agent-appropriate disinfectant on the spill area, working from just outside the margins of the spill towards the center. Allow for sufficient contact time. **Note: minimum contact time may vary, depending on the disinfectant(s) in use and the agent(s) being treated.**
- Pick up any broken glass using forceps, tongs, or a broom and dustpan. NEVER pick up glass with your bare hands. Ensure glass is decontaminated before disposing in broken glass or sharps container.
- Dispose of bleach soaked paper towels (or other absorbent materials) as non-biohazardous waste. Other solid biohazardous wastes must be collected into a biohazard waste bag and autoclaved. **Bleach containing solutions or materials should NOT be autoclaved.**
- Repeat disinfection of the spill site to ensure the area is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.
- Immediately report any spill of risk group 2 materials outside the biosafety cabinet, any spill of risk-group 1 material in excess of 25 ml, and any spill of recombinantly modified risk-group 1 material to the Principal Investigator and to the Office of Biosafety by calling 979-862-4549 or e-mailing biosafety@tamu.edu. For after-hours spill emergencies, please call the Communications Center at 979-845-4311 for assistance.
- Replenish Spill Kit as necessary.