

Biological Spill Procedures

The following procedures are provided as a guideline to bio-hazardous spill cleanup. In each of the following cases, depending on the size of the spill, notify everyone in the lab, and call the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department (468-4532). If a spill contains BSL-2 or greater containment material, or if the spill is considered too large or too dangerous for laboratory personnel to safely clean up, secure the area--including the whole lab--and call the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department immediately for assistance.

Spills inside a Bio-safety Cabinet (BSC)

- Wait at least five minutes to allow the BSC to contain aerosols.
- Wear lab coat, safety glasses and gloves during cleanup.
- Allow cabinet to run during cleanup.
- Apply disinfectant and allow a minimum of 20 minutes contact time.
- Wipe up spillage with disposable disinfectant-soaked paper towel.
- Wipe the walls, work surface and any equipment in the cabinet with a disinfectant-soaked paper towel.
- Discard contaminated disposable materials using appropriate bio-hazardous waste disposal procedures (e.g., autoclave or bag for disposal).
- Place contaminated reusable items in biohazard bags for proper disposal.
- Expose non-autoclavable materials to disinfectant (20 minute contact time) before removal from the BSC.
- Remove protective clothing used during cleanup and place in a biohazard bag for autoclaving.
- Run cabinet 10 minutes after cleanup before resuming work or turning cabinet off.

Spills outside a BSC

- Call the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department if the material is BSL-2 or greater containment.
- Clear area of all personnel. Wait at least 15 minutes for aerosol to settle before entering spill area.
- Remove any contaminated clothing and place in biohazard bag to be disposed of properly.
- Put on a disposable gown, safety glasses and gloves.
- Initiate cleanup with disinfectant as follows:
 1. Place dry paper towels on spill (to absorb liquids); then layer a second set of disinfectant soaked paper towels over the spill.
 2. Encircle the spill with additional disinfectant being careful to minimize aerosolization while assuring adequate contact.
 3. Decontaminate all items within the spill area.
 4. Allow 20 minutes contact time to ensure germicidal action of disinfectant.
 5. Wipe equipment with appropriate disinfectant.
 6. Discard contaminated disposable materials using appropriate bio-hazardous waste disposal procedures (e.g., autoclave or private contractor).
 7. Disinfect reusable items.

Spill inside a Centrifuge

- Clear area of all personnel.
- Wait 30 minutes for aerosol to settle before attempting to clean up spill.
- Wear a lab coat, safety glasses and gloves during cleanup.
- Remove rotors and buckets to nearest biological safety cabinet for cleanup.
- Thoroughly disinfect inside of centrifuge.
- Discard contaminated disposable materials using appropriate bio-hazardous waste disposal procedures.

Spills outside the Lab, In Transit

- Transport labeled bio-hazardous material in an unbreakable, well-sealed primary container placed inside of a second unbreakable, lidded container (cooler, plastic pan or pail) labeled with the biohazard symbol.
- Should a spill occur in a public area, do not attempt to clean it up without appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Secure the area, keeping all people well clear of the spill.
- Call the Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management Department at 468-4532 to assist in cleanup.
- Standby during spill response and cleanup activity and provide assistance only as requested or as necessary.

See the Disposal of Biohazardous Wastes section for proper disposal of spill cleanup material. All spills should be reported to the Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management Department. A Biological Incident Form located on the next page should be filled out and attached to the container of spilled material and a copy should be mailed to the Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management Department (Box 6113).

BIOLOGICAL SPILL INCIDENT SHEET
Stephen F. Austin State University

TIME: _____ NOTIFIED BY _____

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____ DEPARTMENT: _____

EXACT LOCATION OF INCIDENT: _____
(be specific)

TYPE OF BIOHAZARD _____

AMOUNT _____

LIST SUPPLIES USED FOR CLEAN-UP: _____

SPECIAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED _____

SIGNATURE _____