

16.0 CHAPTER 16 – BIOHAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS

16.1 Biohazard Spill Cleanup Procedures

The following procedures are provided as a guideline to biohazardous spill cleanup. In each of the following cases, depending on the size of the spill, notify everyone in the lab, and call EH&S at 893-8894. If a spill contains significant 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 EH&S immediately for assistance.

16.1.1 Inside the Biosafety 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. (See *List of Disinfectants* in Appendix 12.)
- 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 biohazardous waste disposal procedures (e.g., autoclave or disposal by an approved medical waste hauler).
- Place contaminated reusable items in biohazard bags, autoclavable pans with lids or wrap in newspaper before autoclaving and cleanup.
- 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.

16.1.2 In the Lab, Outside the BSC

- Call the biosafety office if the material is BSL-2 or greater containment.

- 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 a disposable gown, safety glasses and gloves.
- Initiate cleanup with disinfectant as follows:
 1. Place dry paper towel 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 biohazardous waste disposal procedures (e.g., autoclave or disposal by approved medical waste hauler).
 7. Disinfect reusable items.

16.1.3 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 biohazardous waste disposal procedures (e.g., autoclave or approved medical waste hauler).

16.1.4 Outside the Lab, In Transit

- Transport labeled biohazardous 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.
- Contact the Biosafety Officer at 893-8894 for assistance.
- Standby during spill response and cleanup activity and provide assistance only as requested or as necessary.