

Appendix E: Biohazard Spill Response

A biohazardous spill occurs anytime there is an unplanned release of potentially infectious material into the work environment. Proper response to these incidents can ensure personnel and community safety while eliminating environmental contamination. In order for a biohazardous spill response to be effective and safe for the campus community, affected work groups must:

- Implement a spill response procedure for their work environment;
- Assure that spill cleanup materials are available for use;
- Assure that all personnel are trained in the provisions of the spill response procedure.

Biohazardous Spill Clean-up

Each work group that has a potential for a biohazardous spill should have sufficient and appropriate spill cleanup materials available to respond to the largest anticipated spill for that area. The basic items that should be available are:

- Disposable Gloves: Change annually
- Splash goggles: Check straps annually
- Absorbent materials: (i.e. Paper towels, SSS Clean-up Powder, Green-Z)
- Disinfectant: EPA registered product effective for destruction of HBV (i.e. bleach, Oxivir Tb, Hepacide Quat) – Change as required
- Mechanical tools (i.e. dustpan/broom, tongs)
- Biohazard bags
- Spill response procedure

Additional items might include protection for street clothing.

In some situations, it may not be appropriate for personnel to clean up a biohazardous spill. This may be the case if:

- An employee has not received training in biohazardous spill cleanup;
- Appropriate spill materials are not available;
- The spill is a combined hazard spill (i.e. radiation and biohazard);
- The spill is too large to be handled by your staff.

In these situations, personnel should take the following primary response steps:

1. Notify others in the work area of the spill;
2. Close off the area where the spill is located;
3. Call EHS HazMat (763-4568) during business hours or DPSS (763-1131) after hours
4. Keep others out of the spill area until responders arrive and spill hazard is removed.

For more information regarding biohazardous spill response procedures, or for assistance with developing a departmental procedure, please contact EHS at (734) 647-1143.

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Sample Biohazardous Spill Procedure

This procedure is applicable to spills on a nonporous surface such as a tile floor or concrete floor.

1. Notify others working in the area of the hazard present.
2. Gather biohazard spill materials and review spill procedure before proceeding with cleanup.
3. Retrieve a sharps container for disposal of sharps if necessary.
4. Put on Personal Protective Equipment (follow site-specific procedures)
5. If applicable, using mechanical means (i.e. dustpan/broom, tongs), pick up any contaminated sharp items (needles, broken glass, etc.) and place them in an approved sharps container for disposal.
6. If using a powder/solidifier (i.e. SSS Clean-up Powder, Green-Z), use a mechanical tool (i.e. dustpan and broom, plastic scrapers) to remove. Dispose of all absorbent materials and tools into a biohazard bag or container. If not applicable, go to step 7.
7. Cover the spill with an absorbent material (i.e. paper towels)
8. Circle and saturate the spill area with disinfectant and allow the appropriate contact time as recommended by the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions
9. Remove residual disinfectant with paper towels. (If using disinfectant wipes, allow to air dry) Dispose of the towels in the biohazard bag or container.
10. Repeat steps 8 and 9 for sufficient disinfection of contaminated surfaces.
11. Remove PPE according to site-specific procedures and place them in the biohazard bag or container for disposal. If applicable, disinfect non-disposable items (i.e. eye protection, dust pan).
12. Close the bag or container and dispose of as biohazardous waste.
13. Wash your hands with soap and water as soon as possible.
14. Return unused spill materials to designated location. Ensure that the spill supplies are restocked for next use.