

	<b>Body Fluid Spill Clean-up Procedure</b>	<b>Document Number:</b> <b>EHS.SPILL.06.01</b>
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## 1.0 Purpose and Applicability

- 1.1. This document spells out proper procedures for clean-up, decontamination and disposal of a body fluid spill.
- 1.2. This procedure must be followed by all involved in the clean-up, disinfection and disposal of a body fluid spill.

## 2.0 Definitions

Body fluids are defined as blood, feces, urine, vomit, saliva, semen, vaginal secretions and any other fluids that originate from a human body. All body fluids can potentially carry infectious agents.

## 3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

- 3.1 **Supervisors** - responsible for ensuring that all personnel involved in a body spill clean-up are supplied with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and that it is worn during the clean-up, disinfection and disposal procedure. It is recommended that this procedure be posted or provided to all staff that could potentially be involved in a body fluid spill clean up.
- 3.2 **EH&S** – responsible for advising of potential risks and providing PPE and disinfectant recommendations for incidents involving a large body fluid spill.
- 3.3 **Staff** – responsible for wearing appropriate PPE and following procedures for body spill clean-up, disinfection and disposal.

## 4.0 Procedures

### 4.1 Determination of PPE requirements based on size and characterization of spill:

Large spill of body fluids such as a raw sewage leak that has a high risk of splash potential: PPE requirements include water proof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.), rubber boots, waterproof Tyvek coveralls or suit and mucous membrane protection that includes goggles and a dust mask.

Small spill of body fluids such as a small pool of blood that has a risk of splashing: PPE requirements at a minimum include waterproof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.) and mucous membrane protection with goggles and dusk mask. Protective clothing such as boots and coveralls may be worn depending on the size and potential for splashing during clean-up.

Dried body fluids or a very small spill of body fluids such as dried blood or blood from a mild nose bleed, that have a low risk of splashing: Wearing water-proof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.) at a minimum would be required for PPE in this type of spill clean up. Other PPE may be worn depending on the situation.

## **4.2 Clean up Procedures:**

Large or small spill with splash potential: first use absorbent material to soak up and contain spill with absorbent powder/ paper towels. Pour disinfectant directly onto material to disinfect. A broad spectrum disinfectant such as a 10% bleach solution poured on and left on the material 10-30 minutes before clean-up is sufficient in most instances to disinfect. Other disinfectants may be used as long as the label lists that it kills a broad spectrum of human infectious agents. After the body fluid material is collected and placed into a trash bag, pour disinfection on the area of spill to complete disinfection and wipe up with paper towels.

Dried body fluids or small spill with low splash potential: Use absorbent material to soak up and contain spill with absorbent powder/ paper towels if necessary. Pour a broad spectrum disinfectant such as a 10% bleach solution onto the body spill and leave on for 10-30 minutes before clean-up. Other disinfectants may be used as long as the label lists that it kills a broad spectrum of human infectious agents. It is important to read these labels and be familiar with the directions for use and expiration dates of the disinfectant. After the body fluid material is collected and placed in a trash bag, pour disinfection on the area of spill to complete disinfection and wipe up with paper towels.

## **4.3 Basic Hygiene & Accidental Exposures**

- ▶ Employees should wash their hands with soap and warm water immediately after removal of gloves and other protective equipment.
- ▶ Disinfect all reusable equipment
- ▶ Upon accidental skin contaminations wash the area with copious amounts of soap and water
- ▶ If the eyes or mucous membranes are accidentally contaminated flush with copious amounts of water
- ▶ Report all accidental exposures to your supervisor

## **4.4 Disposal Procedures**

Most body fluids and clean-up materials can be placed into dark garbage bags and thrown into a dumpster. The only exception would be if the body fluid spill was large quantities of blood (i.e. pooled blood). If clean up materials are soaked or dripping with blood, please call EH&S for biohazard bags & boxes to package material for off-site medical waste incineration.

## **5.0 Key References**

- 5.1 Please contact Judy LaDuc, Biosafety Officer, at EH&S if you have any questions 545-7293
- 5.2 Physical Plant EH&S Officer 545-6043
- 5.3 Supervisor