

Biohazard Emergency Procedures

SPILLS – of Potentially Infectious Material (PIM), cultures or Recombinant DNA

1. For releases outside of containment that cannot be easily and quickly cleaned up by one person, leave room immediately to allow aerosols to dissipate with the room ventilation. Wait at least 15 minutes.
2. If you were splashed or believe you were exposed to aerosols, follow exposure procedures.
3. Limit access to areas where there is potential contamination. Make sure those in the area are not contaminated before they leave.
4. Don gloves, coat and eye protection. Cover the spill with absorbent material such as paper towels.
5. Carefully pour appropriate disinfectant on the spill working toward the center. Be careful not to splash and allow sufficient contact time (10-15 minutes). Fresh 10% bleach is generally appropriate.
6. If there is broken glass, use tongs or a dustpan and a piece of stiff cardboard to collect the glass and put into a sharps container.
7. Clean up gross contamination first without spreading it then work inward from cleaner areas to the dirtiest areas applying more disinfectant as needed.
8. If spill contains a hazardous chemical call EH&S, 545-2682. For radioactive contamination call EH&S, 545-2682.

EXPOSURES - to Potentially Infectious Material (PIM), cultures or Recombinant DNA

1. For splashes that contact mucus membranes or open skin, remove contaminated clothing and put in a red biohazard bag.
Note: if you believe you have inhaled an aerosol, this is an exposure and you should proceed to get medical attention (#4)
2. Immediately wash the exposed area in a sink, eyewash or shower for 15 minutes. Contaminated skin should be washed with soap or a mild disinfectant.
3. Those attending should be careful not to become contaminated as well.
4. As soon as possible the exposed individual should get medical treatment. For serious incidents go directly to the emergency room (call 911). For non-serious incidents go to University Health Services or see your personal physician.
5. Fill out an incident report, check recombinant DNA if applicable
6. Notify EH&S of all biological exposures, 545-7293.
7. Contaminated garments must be disinfected at no cost to the employee by using a laundering company that provides this service or by using a method such as autoclaving before returning them to the worker. Otherwise they must be discarded as biowaste.