Biological Spill Response

BL2 Laboratory

The following procedures are provided as a guideline for biohazard spill clean up in a BL2 laboratory. It is important to remember that the organisms in this type of facility can present a moderate hazard potential to personnel and the laboratory environment.

In the event of a spill:

- If any biohazardous material spills on you, remove contaminated clothing. Wash any exposed body parts.
- If any biohazardous material gets in your eye, flush your eyes at the nearest eyewash station.
- If the spill area is large or in a common use area mark, label, or otherwise denote the area so others may avoid it.
- Wear a lab coat, gloves and eye protection when cleaning up the spill.
- Using materials from your spill kit:
  - Cover the spill with absorbent material.
  - Pour disinfectant over the entire area, working from just outside the margins of the spill towards the center. Allow for sufficient contact time, i.e. 30 minutes.
- Notify the PI, assess the magnitude of the spill and formulate further plans of action, as appropriate.
- Safely pick up any broken glass with forceps or tongs or sweep into a dustpan. NEVER pick up glass with your bare hands.
- Bleach soaked paper towels may be placed into the regular waste can. Other solid waste should be collected into a biohazard waste bag and autoclaved. Bleach should NOT be autoclaved.
- Make sure area is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Repeat cleaning of the spill area as necessary.
- Soak any contaminated clothes and shoes in a tray with disinfectant.
- Report all spills of recombinant materials or Risk Group 2 materials that occur outside the Biosafety cabinet to the PI or your Laboratory Supervisor. In addition, notify the Office of Biosafety by calling 979-862-4549 or emailing biosafety@tamu.edu.
- Replenish Spill Kit as necessary.

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