



UCSF Biological Spill Emergency Procedures

All labs should be prepared to deal with a spill of biohazardous material. They should have the equipment on hand to cleanup and disinfect the area. All workers should be familiar with the procedures.

- Any potentially contaminated clothing must be removed and placed in a biohazard waste bag for autoclaving. If the spill is outside of a biological safety cabinet (BSC), the laboratory must be evacuated immediately. It is the responsibility of the last person out to ensure that all doors have been closed. The room must remain vacant with the door shut for least 30 minutes to allow time for the laboratory ventilation system to clear any aerosolized material from the room, and thus decrease the risk of inhaling biohazardous materials.
- Spill Involving a Microorganism Requiring BSL2 Containment

Procedure:

- a. Alert people in immediate areas of the spill. Leave area if necessary to allow aerosols to settle.
- b. Appropriate PPE must be worn. At minimum, disposable gloves, eye protection and a lab coat should be worn. Avoid splashing and/or aerosolization of the biohazardous material.
- c. Remove contaminated sharps from the spill area using mechanical means. DO NOT use hands!
- d. Cover the spill with paper towels or other absorbent materials.
- e. Carefully spread a freshly prepared 1:10 dilution of household bleach around the edges of the spill and into the spill. Avoid splashing. Allow a 20 minute contact period.
- f. Use paper towels to wipe up the spill, working from the edges into the center.
- g. Clean spill area with fresh paper towels soaked in disinfectant.
- h. Place paper towels into a red biohazard bag.
- i. Notify UCSF Bio-Safety Officer if necessary.

- If the spill is inside a centrifuge, the centrifuge should be closed as soon as the spill is noticed. Wait 30 minutes to allow aerosols to settle and disinfect the instrument using a 1:10 dilution of bleach. The rotor and its contents should be moved to a BSC, if possible, for disinfection.
 - If the spill is contained inside a BSC, the room need not be evacuated; however, the BSC must remain running. The spill tray underneath the work area and the trough below the air intake grill must be cleaned as well. These are likely to be contaminated when the spill is large.
- Hands and any other contaminated skin must be washed thoroughly with soap and water.
 - Everyone not needed for spill cleanup must be cautioned to stay away from the spill area. Signs should be posted.
 - After initial cleanup, the spill area must be flooded with disinfectant and left to soak for at least 20 minutes (adequate contact time is important to ensure complete decontamination).
 - *Note:* Alcohol is not recommended as a disinfectant for large spills, especially inside a BSC, because large amounts of alcohol pose an explosion hazard.
 - Disinfectant can be absorbed with paper towels. A final wipe-down should be done with clean paper towels soaked with disinfectant. Laboratory personnel should be sure to disinfect any equipment, walls or other areas likely to have been splashed by the spill.
 - All contaminated waste must be disposed of properly in red biohazardous waste bags (including any items used during clean up procedures).
 - Hands must be washed thoroughly with soap and water.
 - Notify the Biosafety Officer if necessary at 476-2097.

Should a spill of biohazardous material occur that is beyond the ability of the laboratory to handle, the following procedures should be implemented:

- Cease all work.
- Assist any persons who may be injured or otherwise incapacitated.
- Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
- Evacuate the area.
- Call the UCSF emergency numbers to activate the UCSF Emergency Response Team (ERT).

- From Parnassus, Mt. Zion, Laurel Hts., Mission Bay: Call 9-911

- From SFGH: Call 206-8522