



UTHealth Emergency Response Plan for Biohazardous Materials Inclusive of Recombinant and Synthetic Nucleic Acids

Biological Spill Response- Loss of Containment

Biological Safety

February 2016

September 14, 2023

The following procedures are provided as a guideline to laboratory personnel for biohazardous material spill cleanup, inclusive of biological agents containing recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids (rDNA/sNA). For any spill, if you are not sure about the proper procedures or need assistance, call Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 713-500-8100. For after-hours spills call EHS at 713-500-5832. For all emergencies call UTPD at 911. If a spill is considered too large or too dangerous for laboratory personnel to safely clean up, secure the entire laboratory and contact EHS to obtain assistance. Bleach is recommended as a standard disinfectant for most biological agents, but not all of them, so it is your responsibility to know what disinfectants are effective against the particular agents used in your laboratory. Be sure to use a disinfectant registered with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure effectiveness. Disinfectants must be used at the appropriate dilution for the required minimum contact time – see the manufacturer’s recommendations on the label or product information sheet for this information.

- Wipe up spillage with disposable disinfectant-soaked towels). Do NOT place your head inside of the BSC behind the shield. Wipe spill from the perimeter outwards.
7. Wipe walls, work surfaces, and any equipment inside with paper towels.

1. In the event of any ventilation disruption (loss of negative airflow to the laboratory), notify personnel, stop all work, secure all biohazardous materials and evacuate the laboratory.
2. Place a notice on the door informing personnel of the loss of ventilation and not to enter the lab.
3. Notify Facilities, Planning and Engineering at (713)-500-FIXT (3489) and EHS at (713)-500-5832 to initiate return of ventilation to the appropriate level.
4. All laboratory work should be suspended until the appropriate ventilation (negative airflow) to the laboratory can be restored.

1. If there is a loss of an animal that has been exposed to biohazardous materials, secure the laboratory and attempt to catch the animal if possible.
2. Use a clean cage top for trapping the animal if necessary. If unable to do so, notify a member of the CLAMC staff immediately for any assistance.
3. DO NOT place the animal back in the cage with other animals. This animal may have acquired pathogens from the floor that could then contaminate the entire colony. Such animals should be placed in a new cage and then euthanized or the cage should be clearly labeled that it contains an escaped animal.

This policy has been reviewed and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

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