Principal Investigator: Date Approved:

**Biohazardous Spill Response**

This SOP applies to spills involving biohazardous materials.

Biohazardous material spills inside or outside of containment, such as a Biosafety cabinet, increase the risk of exposure to hazardous materials. It is important to effectively clean and disinfect the contaminated area to reduce the risk of exposure

**Personal Protective Equipment**

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**Engineering Controls, Equipment, and Materials**

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| **Disinfectant** | Appropriate to the agent(s) (see Decontamination/Disinfection SOP) |
| **Absorbent Materials** | Sufficient to completely cover spilled liquid and can be disposed (e.g., paper towels) |
| **Tool for Handling Sharps** | Physical tools that allow safe handling of sharp materials preventing cuts and exposures (e.g., tongs, forceps, broom/dustpan) |
| **Biohazard Waste Container and Bag** | Non-porous, leak-resistant, “biohazard”-labeled container lined with a red biohazard waste bag |
| **Biohazard Sharps Container** | A “biohazard”-labeled disposal box for needles, syringes and sharp objects |
| **Warning Sign** | To notify others that a spill occurred in the area and “Do Not Enter” |

1. If the spill is outside of a BSC, notify others to evacuate room for 30 minutes while aerosols settle and room air exchanges, and post “Do Not Enter” signage to restrict access

**Procedures**

1. Don new PPE to proceed with clean up
2. Place absorbent materials on and around spill
3. Pour disinfectant on paper towels, pouring from the outside in, and wait required contact time (20 minutes for bleach solution)
4. Check area around spill and spray disinfectant on any visible contamination
5. If sharps are present (e.g., broken glass/sharps) pick up with tongs/forceps or broom and dustpan and dispose as biohazardous sharps
6. If sharps are not present dispose of absorbent materials as biohazardous waste
7. Spray spill area with disinfectant and allow to air dry
8. Wipe up disinfectant residue with water and dispose of absorbent materials as biohazardous waste
9. Remove PPE and wash hands with soap and water
10. Report all exposures resulting from spills to the supervisor and EHS.

**Cautions and Considerations**

* Only proceed with biohazardous spill cleanup if you feel comfortable: request assistance from EHS if necessary (801-581-6590)
* Always use physical tools for handling sharps involved in a spill
* Additional PPE may be needed based on the type/extent of the spill and the agent(s) involved
* If bleach is used, a freshly prepared dilution (typically 1:10 with cold water) must be prepared
* Spill kits are available from EHS for purchase (<https://oehs.utah.edu/resource-center/forms/spillkitorderform>)