



Biohazard Spill Response Procedure

A spill is an unintended release of materials from a container. Biological material spills (aside from those involving materials requiring BSL-3 containment) present the greatest risk for personnel exposure when they involve:

- broken glass,
- large quantities (in excess of 50 mls per vessel), or
- occur in public or common use areas

Each laboratory using biohazardous materials should have appropriate equipment and supplies on hand for managing spills and accidents involving biohazardous materials. Permanent equipment should include a safety shower, eyewash and a hand-washing sink with soap and paper towels. A biohazardous spill kit should also be kept on hand.

Spill Response Procedures

1. Stop, notify others and isolate the area immediately!
2. Put on appropriate PPE (lab coat, gloves, eye and face protection)
3. Remove glass/lumps with forceps or scoop, if applicable, and place into a rigid, puncture-resistant, biohazard sharps container
4. Place paper towels soaked in bleach directly on the spill and let soak for 20 minutes
5. Wipe up area from the outside in and discard towels in biohazard waste container
6. Continue wiping area with paper towels soaked in bleach until the spill area is completely cleaned
7. Discard all materials in biohazard waste container
8. Remove PPE and wash hands thoroughly

Spills in a Centrifuge

1. Leave lid closed and allow aerosols to settle for at least 1 hour
2. Ensure centrifuge is off and affix a sign to indicate that a spill has taken place
3. Move to a BSC if possible, then follow steps 2-8 stated above

Safety concern, training request or other inquiry?
Reach out to the **Environmental Health and Safety Department** today!
safety@andrew.cmu.edu **412-268-8182**