

Biological Emergencies

Biological Biohazard Exposure - First Aid Response Actions:

1. Perform immediate first aid.
 - a. Flush eyes, mouth and splash other mucous membranes using tap water or normal saline for at least 15 minutes. Use eyewash if available.
 - b. Needle Stick: Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water for 15 minutes.
 - c. For intact skin or cuts, wash with soap and water for 15 minutes.
2. Notify your supervisor immediately.
3. Report incident to NIA IRP Safety Office, 410-558-8636.
4. Follow NIA IRP BBP Exposure Guidelines.

In the event of a biological spill – routine response:

1. Notify others in the lab/area of the biological spill. Ask others to leave the area to avoid further contamination.
2. For spills to skin, clean the area carefully with soap and water for 15 minutes
3. For splashes to eyes or other mucous membranes, irrigate for 15 minutes with water or normal saline.
4. For spills affecting a large part of the body, remove contaminated clothing and wash all parts of the body which may have come in contact with the biological agent using copious amounts of water. Use Safety Shower if necessary.
5. Contain spill with paper towel or other absorbent material. Avoid creating aerosols which can contaminate personnel and the area.
6. Leave area for 20-30 minutes to allow aerosol droplets to drop out of suspension.
7. Call the NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (GRC x8119 or BRC x3000) to report spill and for any assistance.
8. Use appropriate Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE), i.e., gloves, lab coat, mask, face shield, booties, and appropriate disinfectant, i.e., 10% bleach solution, wescodyne.
9. Place all contaminated biological waste and cleanup materials in appropriate biological waste container, i.e., MPW box.
10. Dispose of sharps in appropriate sharps containers.

Hazardous biological spill - large volume, high viral load

1. Place absorbent paper towels around spill to prevent further spread.
2. Check for exposure to biological material. Initiate first aid, if needed.
3. Leave room and close door.
4. Post person by door to prevent re-entry. Do not allow re-entry for at least 30 minutes.

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5. Call NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (GRC x8119 or BRC x3000) for spill cleanup assistance.
6. For an afterhours spill that an investigator cannot clean up, close the lab. Call Security and ask them to cordon off the area.

Hazardous material, large volumes, irritating vapors, confined spaces

1. Check for exposure to skin. Initiate first aid, if needed.
2. Turn off gas burners.
3. Do not track spill through the facility.
4. Place absorbent material/spill pillows/spill mats on or around spill, if time allows, and only if it does not place you in immediate danger.
5. Leave room and close door behind you to contain spill.
6. Place absorbent material/spill pillows/spill mats outside of door to prevent spill from leaking into hallway.
7. Post person by door to prevent re-entry.
8. Immediately contact NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (GRC x8119 or BRC x3000) for spill cleanup assistance or additional spill kit supplies.
- 9. Do not attempt to clean up a mercury spills or special case situations!**
10. For an afterhours spill that an investigator cannot clean up, close the lab. Call Security and ask them to cordon off the area.
11. File an Incident Report with the NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636), BRC 04C216.