

# PROCEDURE IN CASE OF A BIOHAZARD SPILL

## 1. Biohazard spills outside a biological safety cabinet

- a) Hold your breath and inform everyone to leave the room immediately with you and close the door.
- b) Warn others to not enter the contaminated area.
- c) Notify your safety representative of the spill immediately.
- d) Remove contaminated garments and put them into an autoclavable bag. Place the bag containing contaminated clothing into the autoclave (room 321, Block B) for effective sterilisation.
- e) Thoroughly wash hands and face and any other exposed area of the body.
- f) Wait for 30 minutes to allow dissipation of aerosols created by the spill if the laboratory has a negative airflow otherwise begin cleanup immediately.
- g) Get a biohazard spill kit located at the emergency shower.
- h) Put on protective clothing including a mask and rubber gloves.
- i) Pour a decontaminant solution around the spill. Spill kit contains 10% bleach for blood and body fluids and 70% ethanol for microorganisms.
- j) Paper towels soaked in the correct decontaminant can also cover the spill.
- k) Leave for 20 minutes for adequate contact time.
- l) Transfer all contaminated cleaning material into a biohazard bag for removal.
- m) Autoclave all contaminated reusable material in autoclave bags (room 321, Block B).

## 2. Biohazard spills inside a biological safety cabinet

- a) Notify your safety representative and supervisor of the spill immediately.
- b) Prevent escape of contaminants from the cabinet by immediately initiating chemical decontamination.
- c) Obtain spill kit located at emergency shower.
- d) Put on rubber gloves and take care when picking up broken glass or other sharps by using tongs.
- e) Discard sharps into sealed sharps containers.
- f) Wipe walls and work surfaces with the appropriate decontaminant.
- g) Flood the top work surface tray with the decontaminant and leave for 30 minutes (be careful in safety cabinets as Jik corrodes stainless steel after 30 minutes exposure).

- h) Remove excess decontaminant from the surface by wiping with a sponge/paper towel.
- i) Collect all used sponges/paper towel and put into an autoclavable bag and autoclave in room 321, Block B.

### **3. Biohazard spills outside the laboratory (during transport)**

If a biohazard agent is spilled during transport outside the laboratory initiate the clean-up immediately. Alert your safety officer of the spill. As it would already be too late to prevent aerosols, in this case it is better to place extra emphasis on prevention of spills during transport:

- a) Develop a procedure for the removal of bio hazardous materials for incubation, refrigeration, or for any other reason from the laboratory, and enforce adherence to it.
- b) Place all such materials in an unbreakable container that would prevent the escape of liquid or aerosol if it were dropped.
- c) Label the container with the biohazard symbol to ensure no mistake is made as to the contents.