BIOLOGICAL SPILL

Biological spills outside of biological safety cabinets (tissue culture hoods) can generate aerosols that can be dispersed throughout the laboratory.

Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to decontaminate spills involving-
BL-1 agents: Safety glasses, disposable gloves, and lab coats.
BL-2 agents: Disposable long sleeve gown, booties, safety glasses, dust mask or face shield, and gloves.

SPILLS INVOLVING A MICROORGANISM REQUIRING BL-1 OR BL-2 CONTAINMENT

Moderate risk agents associated with diseases of varying severity, such as Hepatitis B virus, salmonellae. Includes human blood and body fluids.

- Alert people in immediate area of spill.
- Put on protective equipment and double pairs of gloves.
- Cover spill with paper towels or other absorbent materials.
- Carefully pour freshly prepared 1 in 10 dilution of household bleach around the edges of the spill and then into the spill.
- Allow a 20-minute contact period.
- Wipe down any contaminated stationary equipment or furniture with disinfectant. Use forceps, tongs, or broom to remove broken glass and other items, place in sharps container or red bag.

- Use paper towels to wipe up the spill, working from the edges into the center.
- Clean spill area with fresh towels soaked in disinfectant.
- Place towels and disposable PPE into a plastic bag and decontaminate in an autoclave.

(material adapted from ‘Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories’, 4th ed., 1999. Centers for Disease Control.)