



Cleaning up Biological Spills

Minor spills can be safely handled without the assistance of EHSO or emergency response personnel. Spills are considered minor if the volume is less than 100ml. Here is a simple example. A researcher is walking to the BSC holding a few test tubes containing blood. On the way to the BSC, the researcher drops a 10ml tube of blood to the floor. Since the volume of the spill is less than 100ml, this would be a minor spill. Major spills can include biological spills greater than 100ml or biological spills involving highly infectious agents.

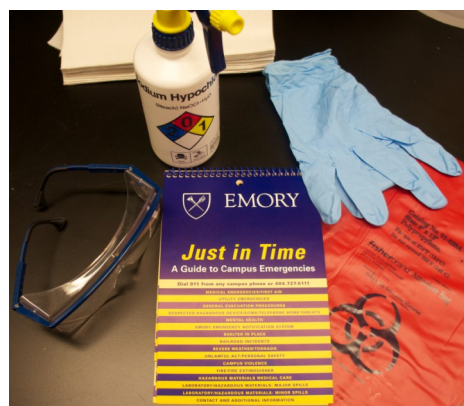


Major spills may require the assistance of EHSO or Emergency Response Personnel

In the event of a major spill laboratory personnel should call EHSO at 7-5922 during business hours or Emory Police (911 from a campus phone or 404-727-6111 from any other phone) after hours.

Cleaning Up Minor Biological Spills:

1. Notify others that a spill has occurred.
2. Remove any contaminated clothing or PPE by folding the contamination inward and dispose of as biohazard waste.
3. Evacuate the spill area.
4. Wash potentially contaminated body parts with germicidal soap. Shower if necessary.
5. Allow time for aerosols to settle before returning to the spill.
6. Don appropriate PPE (ie: lab coat, double gloves, eye protection).
7. Confine the spill to a limited area using absorbent material.
8. Encircle the spill area with appropriate disinfectant (ie: freshly prepared 10% bleach solution) working from the outside of the spill and moving inward.
9. Allow at least 20 minutes of contact time.
10. Clean up the spill materials and dispose of as biohazard waste.
11. If sharps are involved:
 - A. Use a dustpan and broom or forceps to collect the waste.
 - B. Dispose of in a sharps container.
12. Wipe down the outside of bags, containers, and equipment involved with disinfectant and dispose of wipes as biohazard waste.
13. Remove PPE and dispose of as biohazard waste.
14. Wash arms, face, and hands with soap and water.



The above emergency procedures may be found in your lab's [Just in Time Guide to Campus Emergencies](#) Flip Chart. If you do not have a flip chart posted in your lab, contact your building liaison.

Training

Most of EHSO's Trainings are available online. www.ehso.emory.edu for registration information.

Radiation Safety Training
2nd Tuesdays at 10:00 am

Laboratory Safety Training
3rd Thursdays at 10:00 am

Chemical/Radioactive Waste Pick-up Schedule

[Full Schedule here...](#)

All **chemical** waste pick up should be requested by emailing chemwaste@emory.edu

All **radioactive** waste pick up should be requested via EHS Assist pick-up.

Chemical waste disposal inventory form and/or **radioactive** waste inventory form should accompany all waste containers at the time of pick-up.

PPE

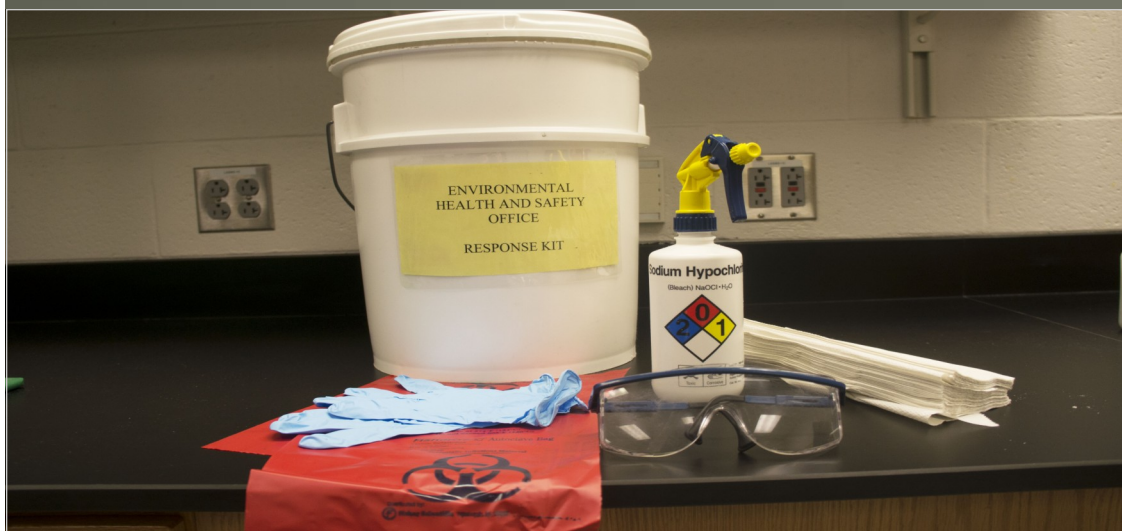
Choice to be based on potential exposures involved:

Eye: Glasses, goggles & face shields

Gloves: Appropriate for the type of procedure
Clothing: Gowns, lab coats, aprons, coveralls

Respirators: Appropriate for the type of procedure

Components of a Biological Spill Kit



Concentrated household bleach
A spray bottle for making fresh 10% bleach solutions
Forceps or a dust pan and brush for handling sharps

Paper towels or other suitable absorbent material (kitty litter or sand)
Biohazard bags
Gloves
Eye protection/Safety Goggles

Attention All Radioactive Materials (RAM) Users

- Empty RAM waste containers will no longer be available on the ground floor in Whitehead Biomedical Research Building or in the basement of Woodruff Memorial Research Building.
- Replacement RAM waste containers should be requested through EHS-Assist by creating a “Waste Pick-Up” request.
- EHSO will deliver requested waste containers to labs.

Please make sure you plan accordingly and submit your waste pick up requests in a timely manner so your containers do not overflow!

If you have any questions please contact the Health Physicist associated with your specific building.

Notice

Signature indicates: I have read and I understand the information in this issue of Lab Rat Newsletter. Use an additional sheet of paper for more signatures, if needed and attach to this document.

- This newsletter is a tool to help fulfill a legal requirement for ongoing safety training.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring that individuals in their area have read and understood the information that applies to their area.
- The signed newsletter should be placed into the PIs EHSO Lab Safety Binder.

1. _____
2. _____
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Eye Wash Testing

Lab personnel should test the eyewash station once a month.

Certifications

Bio-safety Cabinets/
Geiger Meters and
Chemical Fume Hoods
Certification required
annually.

Fire Extinguishers

Visual fire extinguishers inspections conducted monthly:

- A. Is it present and mounted in its proper location?
- B. Is it readily accessible?
- C. Initial and date attached tag.

If it appears to need servicing contact the Maintenance HELP line at 7-7463

Tell us how we are doing!

The newsletter has a new home. Every individual article is now hosted online at blogs.emory.edu/labratnews/

Got something to share? [Tell us!](#) Post comments, related articles/links, and safety concerns.

Feel free to also send your comments to biosafe@emory.edu.

We look forward to reading your ideas and comments!

Building Liaisons

[Click here](#) to find your building's Radiation and Research liaisons.