

# EHS Biosafety: Emergency Response Procedures

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## Package Leaks

### Leaks or Evidence of Leaks

1. Examine the outer packaging
2. Leaks or evidence of leaks
3. Contain package
4. Notify UAB Biosafety at (205) 934-2487
5. Notify sender

### No Evidence of Leaks

1. Examine the outer packaging
2. No evidence of leaks
3. Examine inner packaging and contents in Biosafety Cabinet (BSC). If there is a leak:
  - a. Notify sender
  - b. Notify UAB Biosafety at (205) 934-2487
    - i. Category A or Select Agent: Biosafety responds and reports to CDC
    - ii. Category B: Follow spill clean-up procedure

## Spill Clean-Up Procedure

### Basic Biosafety Spill Kit

Store all of these items in a five-gallon bucket with a lid. The bucket can also serve as a container for the waste generated by the clean-up. The bucket should be labeled indicating it's a spill kit. A basic spill kit should include the following items:

1. Latex or Surgical Gloves
2. Safety Glasses, Goggles, Face Shield, and Mask
3. Disposable Lab Coats
4. Aprons or Gown
5. Absorbent material (paper towels, spill booms or pillows, vermiculite)

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6. Small disposable plastic broom, dustpan, tongs, or forceps
7. Biohazard bags for biohazardous material and Ziploc for others
8. Small bottle of detergent cleaning solution
9. Disinfectant appropriate for agent used in the lab
10. Shoe covers
11. Biohazard Stickers
12. Copy of spill clean-up plan
13. Red Medical Waste Bags

This information is for a basic kit **only**. However, performing a careful risk analysis of the biological hazards found in your laboratory may require additional items not found on the list. For information, contact UAB's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at (204) 934-2487.

## Spill Clean-Up Procedure

1. Don, the appropriate PPE for the, spilled potentially infectious material
  - a. This could include gloves, lab coat, face shield, goggles, dust mask, HEPA mask, etc. This exposure routes and protect yourself accordingly.
  - b. If the spilled material can be transmitted via inhalation, clear the area, and warn others. Wait 30 minutes and enter the area. This allows aerosols to settle or be captured by building exhaust. Keep in mind that if a liquid or fine powder has spilled, aerosolization has taken place.
2. Assess the spill
  - a. What was spilled?
  - b. Liquid or solid?
    - i. If a liquid, does it have a high vapor pressure – will it evaporate quickly?
  - c. Infectious or non-infectious?
  - d. Is it concentrated or non-concentrated?
  - e. Waste-based?
  - f. Is it toxic?
  - g. Is it corrosive?

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- h. Was the aerosol in containment?
- i. In a BSC or fume hood? Category A substances are more potent. Follow your SOP!
- j. Was it large or small?
  - i. A large spill is generally defined as sufficient quantity that if spilled, tends to seek its own level. In other words, it runs to a low point. One would want to make sure the spill did not spread and contaminate other areas.