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| Gross Anatomy Spill Response Guide |
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This guide outlines the basic procedures for dealing with some of the spills that may be encountered in the Gross Anatomy laboratory. All lab personnel should refer to the relevant spill response procedures before beginning work.

# Composition of a Basic Spill Kit

Biomedical research laboratories should prepare and maintain a biological spill kit. The following items should be included in the spill kit:

* Suitable disinfectant/concentrate
* A spray bottle for making disinfectant solutions
* Forceps, dust pan, or other mechanical device for handling sharps
* Paper towels or other suitable absorbent
* Biohazard bags for the collection of contaminated spill clean-up items
* Utility gloves and medical examination gloves
* Face protection (eye wear and mask, or full face shield)

Ensure the disinfectant chosen is effective against the agents in use at the appropriate dilutions and contact time. Disinfectants should be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency as tuberculocidal for compliance with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

Representatives from the Safety Office are available if you have any questions regarding biological spill response procedures or decontamination (x2-8845). All significant spills in the Gross Anatomy laboratory shall be reported to the Safety Office immediately.

# Exposure Incident

Report exposure immediately; you may need immediate therapy.

* Needlesticks/puncture wounds:
  + Wash the affected area with antiseptic soap and warm water for 15 minutes
* Mucous membrane exposure:
  + Flush the affected area for 15 minutes using an eyewash.

For all exposure incidents:

Notify Instructor, Lab manager or supervisor (if available) to initiate accident or exposure incident report.

**CHEMICAL EXPOSURE**

1. In case of skin contact: Take off contaminated clothing and shoes immediately. Wash off in safety shower for at least 15 minutes. Call x911 for medical assistance and have someone notify public safety (954-262-8999) for medical assistance.
2. In case of eye contact: Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water at eyewash for at least 15 minutes and call x911 for medical assistance and have someone notify public safety (954-262-8999) for medical assistance.
3. If swallowed: Do NOT induce vomiting. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Call x911 for medical assistance and have someone notify public safety (954-262-8999) for medical assistance.
4. Report all accidental exposures to EHS and Human Resources (employees) or Student Health

(students).

1. Complete an online injury/illness report if there is an over-exposure to the chemical or if there is an accident involving the chemical.

**CUTS OR PUNCTURES**

1. If you cut yourself then use direct pressure immediately applied with a clean paper towel directly on the laceration. Go to a nearby sink and flush the open wound with copious amounts of water and soap. Apply additional direct pressure until all of the bleeding has stopped. Then, apply antiseptic and a sterile pressure dressing when bleeding to the washed wound has subsided.
2. A puncture wound should instead be made to bleed immediately to better wash out the wound. Go to a nearby sink, wash the puncture and repeat the process to encourage more bleeding. After again washing with copious amounts of water, apply antiseptic to the surface of the puncture and a sterile pressure dressing.
3. Report ALL injuries and all accidental exposures to EHS and Human Resources (employees) or Student Health (students), Lab Manager/Staff immediately.
4. Present to the Student Health Center or Emergency Room if the injury is serious or progressing badly. Additionally, all injuries or potential biohazard exposure (cuts, puncture, etc) should be reported to the professor, facilities coordinator, and the EHS Office. All information is kept strictly confidential.

**Blood Spills**

For blood or other material with a high organic content and low concentration of infectious

microorganisms:

* Wear gloves, eye protection, and a gown.
* Absorb blood with paper towels and place in a biohazard bag.
* Collect any sharp objects with forceps or other mechanical device and place in a sharps container.
* Using a detergent solution, clean the spill site of all visible blood.
* Spray with disinfectant and let sit for 15 minutes.
* After the 15 minute contact time, wipe the area down with disinfectant-soaked paper towels.
* Discard all disposable materials used to decontaminate the spill and any contaminated personal protective equipment into a biohazard bag.
* Wash your hands with soap and water.

**SMALL SPILL**

When human tissue (removed fat or fascia) is accidentally spilled or an accidental spill of fluid or wetting solution on the floor around the table it should be promptly cleaned. Retrieve paper towels, clean spill area, and dispose of in trash, if the tissue is of insufficient mass or substance. Absorbent kits are available to be used as needed.

**LARGER SPILL**

Should a larger spill occur, report to the technician immediately. Isolate the area to prevent others from tracking contaminated fluids on their shoes around the room. The lab technician should retrieve the spill kit and secure the spill. Lab technician will notify EHS and report the incident. Spill kits are located in each lab.

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| **Safety Guidelines for Anatomical Dissection**  **POST IN LAB**  ***Never work alone*** in the anatomical (or any other) laboratory. Accidents can occur at any time, without warning, and your best assurance for help is a partner or nearby person.  ***Proper cadaver storage*** minimizes exposure to embalming fluid and helps preserve cadavers. Turn the ventilated cadaver tables to the “open” position after opening the cover, and be sure to turn the lever to the “closed” position when finished. Failure to turn the damper to the closed position will cause the cadaver to dry out.  ***Information*** about chemicals and other materials used in the anatomical dissection is available from the Environmental Health & Safety. These include Safety Data Sheets (SDS), copies of applicable health and safety standards, and detailed toxicological information.  ***Odors and chemical exposures*** The odor of embalmed cadavers is unpleasant, but exposures to formaldehyde and other chemicals are regularly monitored and have been generally found to be below regulatory limits. If you have an existing health condition, particularly respiratory, you may be more sensitive - notify your instructor as soon as possible.  ***Personal protective equipment*** (PPE) must be worn, including disposable or dedicated washable clothing (disposable gown, scrubs), aprons (optional), nitrile gloves, and safety glasses, goggles, or a face shield. Based upon exposure monitoring, respirators are not required.  ***Sharps*** must be handled with care, and disposed in special, puncture-resistant containers provided. Never try to retrieve a disposed object as serious injury could result.  ***Good personal hygiene habits*** are essential. Change out of your clothing as soon as you are finished working, and deposit them in the appropriate container. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. During work, be conscious about your hands, and avoid any contact with other parts of your body, especially the face, eyes, and mouth.  ***Accidents and emergencies*** must be attended to immediately. In the event of direct skin or eye contact, flush the affected area with water for at least 15 minutes; in the event or a cut or puncture, apply first aid and wash the area with soap and water immediately. Notify your instructor for help in obtaining further medical assistance. Contact Environmental Health & Safety for assistance in cleaning up spills. |