



# Laboratory Emergency Procedures



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## Medical Emergency

- Remain calm.
- Initiate lifesaving measures if required.
- Do not move person unless there is danger of further harm.
- Keep person warm.
- Call for emergency response.
- Initiate first aid.
- Report incident.

## Fire Emergency

- Alert people in area to evacuate.
- Activate nearest fire alarm or call Security number.
- Close doors to confine fire.
- Evacuate to safe area or exit building through stairwell; do not use lift.
- Have person knowledgeable of incident and laboratory assist emergency personnel.
- Alert people in laboratory and activate alarm.
- Smother fire or use correct fire extinguisher.
- Aim extinguisher at base of fire.
- Always maintain accessible exit.
- Avoid smoke or fumes.
- Small fires can be extinguished without evacuation.
- Fire extinguishers should only be used by trained personnel.
- Never enter a room that is smoke filled.
- Never enter a room containing a fire without a backup person.

## Biological Spill Emergency

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in immediate area of spill.

- Close doors to affected area.
- Put on protective equipment.
- Cover spill with paper towels or other absorbent materials.
- Carefully pour a freshly prepared 1 in 10 dilution of household bleach around the edges of the spill and then into the spill. Avoid splashing.
- Allow a 20-minute contact period for the bleach solution to be effective.
- 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 in a plastic bag and decontaminate in an autoclave.
- Have person knowledgeable of the incident and laboratory assist emergency personnel.
- Wear disposable gloves.
- Soak paper towels in disinfectant and place over spill area.
- Place towels in plastic bag for disposal.
- Clean spill area with fresh towels soaked in disinfectant.
- Biological spills outside biological safety cabinets will generate aerosols that can be dispersed in the air throughout the laboratory. These spills are very serious if they involve microorganisms that require Group 3 containment, as most of these agents have the potential for transmitting disease by infectious aerosols.
- To reduce the risk of inhalation exposure in such an incident, occupants should hold their breath and leave the laboratory immediately. The laboratory should not be re-entered to decontaminate and clean up the spill for at least 30 minutes. During this time the aerosol will be removed from the laboratory by the exhaust air ventilation system.
- Appropriate protective equipment is particularly important in decontaminating spills involving microorganisms. This equipment includes lab coat with long sleeves, back-fastening gown, disposable gloves, disposable shoe covers, and safety goggles and mask or full-face shield. Use of this equipment will prevent contact with contaminated surfaces and protect eyes and mucous membranes from exposure to splattered materials.

#### **Clothing on Fire**

- Roll person around on floor to smother flame, or drench with water if safety shower is immediately available.
- Obtain medical attention, if necessary.
- Report incident to supervisor.

#### **Biological Spill on Body**

- Remove contaminated clothing.



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- Vigorously wash exposed area with soap and water for one minute.
  - Obtain medical attention, if necessary.
  - Report incident to supervisor.

#### **Hazardous Material Splashed in Eye**

- Immediately rinse eyeball and inner surface of eyelid with water continuously for 15 minutes.
- Forcibly hold eye open to ensure effective wash behind eyelids.
- Obtain medical attention.
- Report incident to supervisor.

#### **Minor Cuts and Puncture Wounds**

- Vigorously wash injury with soap and water for several minutes.
- Obtain medical attention.
- Report incident to supervisor.

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By: Chris Scott  
(Authorized Officer)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Scott".

Title: Project Manager



+1-862-686-2696  
277 Fairfield Road,  
Fairfield, New Jersey 07004, USA

[inquiry@accegen.com](mailto:inquiry@accegen.com)  
[www.accegen.com](http://www.accegen.com)