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| **Safety Procedure Title:** | **Cleaning Up Blood and Other Potentially Infectious Fluids** |
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| **Revised Date:** | **October 2015;**  **Charlotte Fetterly, M.Sc(A) Occupational Hygienist**  **Fetterly OHS Services Ltd.** |
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## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING BLOOD AND OTHER POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS FLUIDS

* Restrict access to the area.
* Ensure plastic waste holding bags are available for removal of contaminated items from the spill site. For plastic waste holding bag specifications, refer to Manage Biomedical Waste Guideline.
* Have dilute bleach ready.
* Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn for cleaning up a blood spill.
* Gloves should be worn during the cleaning and decontaminating procedures. Wear disposable, waterproof gloves (such as Nitrile,).
* If the possibility of splashing exists, the worker should wear a face shield and gown.
* For large blood spills, overalls, gowns or aprons, as well as boots or protective shoe covers should be worn.
* Cover your shoes or boots with disposable, waterproof covers if they could become contaminated during clean up.
* Personal protective equipment should be changed if torn or soiled, and always removed prior to leaving the location of the spill.
* Dispose of sharps first according to the Dispose of Used Hypodermic Needles guidelines.
* Wipe up visible material first with disposable towels (or in another way that prevents direct contact with blood and certain body fluids). Care must be taken to avoid splashing or generating aerosols during the clean up. The treated area should then be wiped with paper towels soaked in tap water. Discard the towels in a plastic waste holding bag. Refer to the Manage Biomedical Waste guideline. These bags may be discarded in the Reusable Waste Container. Ask your supervisor where this container is located.
* The blood spill area must be cleaned of obvious organic material before applying a disinfectant, as hypochlorites are substantially inactivated by blood and other materials.
* Allow the area to dry.
* After you have carefully removed all the obvious material, it may be necessary to change gloves.
* Decontaminate the area by carefully pouring over the spill site a 1:10 solution of household bleach and water.
* Leave the solution on for 10 minutes, and then wipe it up with disposable towels. Discard the towels in the plastic waste holding bag. Refer to the Manage Biomedical Waste guideline.
* Wear gloves to remove other protective equipment such as face shields and footwear covers. Dispose of or clean PPE (for example, face shields, aprons, boot covers) according to the manufacturer’s directions
* Properly remove and dispose of gloves in a plastic waste holding bag. Refer to Manage Biomedical Waste guideline. Wash your hands.