**Planning for spills**

A simple spill kit should be readily available and should include the following items:

- Chlorine bleach or other concentrated disinfectant
- Package or roll of paper towels
- Autoclavable bag
- Latex or nitrile gloves
- Forceps for picking up broken glass

**Spill inside a biological safety cabinet**

- Leave the cabinet turned on
- Put on gloves and a lab coat
- Spray or wipe surfaces with a bleach solution
- Wait at least 20 minutes
- Soak up disinfectant and spill with paper towels
- Autoclave all clean-up materials before disposal
- Wash hands after clean-up
- For assistance call 911

**Small spill outside a biological safety cabinet**

A spill can be labeled as spall if it is one that can be covered by a few paper towels.

- Put on gloves and a lab coat
- Cover spill with paper towels and disinfectant
- Wait at least 20 minutes
- Discard towels into a biohazard container
- Re-wipe the spill area with disinfectant
- Remove gloves and wash hands
- Wash hands after clean-up
- For assistance call 911

**A large spill outside a biological safety cabinet**

- Leave the room immediately
- Post a sign on the door warning others of the spill
- Remove any contaminated clothing and put it into a biohazard bag for later autoclaving
- Wash hands and exposed skin
- For assistance call 911
### Biosafety Levels (BSL), agents, factors, and practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSL</th>
<th>AGENTS</th>
<th>FACTORS</th>
<th>PRACTICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agents that are not associated with disease in healthy human adults</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Standard lab and management practices, including appropriate medical surveillance programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2   | Associated with human disease which is rarely serious and for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are often available | Not known to be transmittable by inhalation  
No aerosol production planned | BSL-1 practices plus:  
- Limited access  
- Biohazard warning signs  
- Sharps precautions  
- Biosafety manual  
- Decontamination of all infectious wastes prior to disposal |
| 2/3 | Associated with human disease; special precautions required for some agents | BSL-2 facility with BSL-3 controls | BSL-2 practices plus:  
- Controlled access  
- Decontamination of clothing before laundering  
- Equipment decontaminated before removed |
| 3   | Agents associated with serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions may be available (high individual risk but low community risk) | No or limited sharps allowed  
All work with infectious agent done in biosafety cabinet | BSL-2 practices plus:  
- Controlled access  
- Decontamination of clothing before laundering  
- Equipment decontaminated before removed  
- Disinfectant foot bath as needed |
| 4   | Agents that are likely to cause serious or lethal human disease for which preventive or therapeutic interventions are not usually available (high individual risk and high community risk) | Not allowed in VT labs | N/A |