Card N°4

Large Biological Spill Cleaning Procedure

1. Leave the P2 or P3 laboratory or move away from the contaminated zone. Call 115 for back-up support.

2. Delimit and secure the contaminated zone (e.g. block entrance to the P2 or P3, mark out a large area surrounding the contaminated area if the spill occurs outside of a confined laboratory, during a transfer of cultures for example).

3. Before treating the spill:
   - Leave sufficient time for the aerosol to settle down
   - Prepare the material* and the decontaminating solution (Virkon or Vespheine for TB)
   - Put on the safety equipment**: Tyvek + FFP3 mask** + (hairnet) + safety goggles + gloves (two pairs in the P3, use tape in order to seal the inner pair of gloves on the gown) + covershoes.
     * Spill kits are at your disposal (grey boxes) in most P2 and in P3 labs.
     ** High level of protection required since a spill outside of the protection of a biosafety cabinet can be problematic.
     *** A powered-air purifying respirator (PAPR) might be used in P3.

4. At the laboratory door entrance or at the border of the secure area, mark clearly the limit between the clean and dirty zone. Everything leaving the dirty zone must be decontaminated or trash in a “Biohazard” bag (e.g. gloves, Tyvek suit, absorbing fabric). In the dirty zone, prepare a waste collection area where the contaminated material or equipment can be dropped off. One can hang up to the wall or on another support (using tape) a “Biohazard” bag. Make sure that the bag leans on the floor.

5. Soak paper towels (or any absorbing fabric like dish or beach towels if you need to cover large surfaces) in a bucket filled with a Virkon solution (Vespheine for TB). Lay the towels on the floor by progressing towards the center of the contaminated area. Cover as much as possible of the contaminated area with the soaked towels.

6. Let the decontaminating solution work for at least 30 minutes.

7. Remove the towels while wiping the floor. Trash them in the “Biohazard” bag.

8. Wipe walls, furniture, casters, etc., with a towel soaked with Virkon. Spray Virkon on spots that are difficult to reach. Let the decontaminant work for 30 minutes. Rinse with water and/or with 70% ethanol.

9. Finish by mopping the floor with a cleaning solution (hospital quality) and by rinsing with water. Decontaminate with Virkon (or Vespheine for TB) all the material used.

10. Before stepping out of the formerly contaminated zone, remove your safety equipment. Start with the outer pair of gloves. Doff the Tyvek and trash it. Remove one covershoe and place the unprotected foot in the clean zone. Do the same with the other foot. Trash the covershoes. Remove the second pair of gloves, then take out your mask and trash them. Close the waste bag. Decontaminate the outer surface with Virkon and transfer the bag to the clean zone.