



ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT



Standard Operating Procedures - 5.02 Biohazard Wash Down and Mitigation

BIOHAZARD WASH DOWN AND MITIGATION

Effective: August 2, 2024
Scheduled Review: August 2, 2027
Approved: Fire Chief Mike Kennedy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish operational guidelines and provide detailed actions for scenes contaminated with blood, bodily fluids, or other residues from serious human injuries and illnesses, which require appropriate clean-up and disposal to prevent health exposure risks.

II. IDENTIFICATION

A typical wash down consists of blood or bodily fluids less than one pint (16 ounces of liquid). Blood or bodily fluid over one pint, tissue, bone fragments, and / or brain matter shall be treated as human remains and cannot be washed down. This will require decontamination and cleanup beyond the capability of the fire department.

Any incident that poses a potential threat to the general public will be made safe or turned over to a contractor capable of mitigating the hazard prior to leaving the scene.

Please reference [5.01 Infectious Disease Exposure Control Plan](#) for additional information.

III. MITIGATION

If a request for a biohazard clean-up is determined to be on private property, the area should be cordoned off and the property owner / occupant advised of their responsibility for safe cleanup. It shall be the company officer's discretion if a wash down can resolve the issue for incidents outside but on private property.

The following actions shall be taken in public areas, including but are not limited sidewalks, parks, roadways, etc.

Wash Down

- A. Isolate the area from the public.
- B. Open the spill kit and don appropriate PPE.
 - a. Safety glasses, located in EMS jump kit.
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Put Red-Z on liquid(s) located in spill kit.
 - d. Once congealed use shovel to scoop into biohazard waste bag.
- C. Spray the area with Sanizide Plus.
- D. Allow twenty (20) minutes for the Sanizide Plus to disinfect and deodorize the spill.
- E. Put Red-Z on disinfected area(s), wait until material is coagulated and place in the red Biohazard bag
- F. Place shovel and gloves in the Biohazard and close.
- G. Take biohazard bag to Fire Station 1 and place in the biohazard disposal bin near apparatus bay 1 (by washer and dryer).
- H. Using a hose line or water can, wash the material into the nearest storm drain or public sewer system. If a storm drain or public sewer is unavailable, materials may be flushed into vegetation such as grass.



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- I. Notify Water Quality Manager (734) 794-6430 x 43735.
- J. Open the area back to the public.

Private Contractor

- A. Isolate the area from the public.
- B. Notify the battalion chief.
- C. The battalion chief will contact 1-800-BoardUp 1-800-262-7387. After the call to 1-800-BoardUp is placed, notify the assistant chief of operations. If unavailable, contact the fire chief.
- D. The fire company will remain on scene and secure the area until the scene can be turned over to 1-800-BoardUp . If AAPD or another trusted entity is willing to stand-by, the scene may turned over to them.
- E. Notify Water Quality Manager (734) 794-6430 x 43735.
- F. Open the area back to the public.

The department recognizes a wash-down request may adversely impact the crew who initially responded to the incident or is receiving peer support intervention related to the original incident. Therefore, company officers may request the battalion chief to assign the next closest resource to a wash down. The battalion chief, assistant chief, or fire chief may pro-actively assign another company even if not requested.