

**A** ccording to the NIH Guidelines (Section IV-B-7-a-(3) and IV-B-7-e-(2)) any significant research-related accidents, illnesses, breaches in containment, or other incidents involving recombinant DNA (rDNA) must be reported to the National Institutes of Health Office of Biotechnology Activities (NIH-OBA) within thirty days.

Spills or accidents in BSL2 laboratories resulting in overt exposure must be reported immediately. Visit the NIH Office of Biotechnology Activities (OBA) web site: <http://tiny.cc/oba-incidentReporting> for more information.

### What is an rDNA Incident?

An rDNA incident is defined by the following:

- Overt exposure to biohazardous recombinant organisms; i.e., expected to cause disease that is potentially serious or life threatening.
- Injuries or illnesses stemming from a potential biohazard exposure.
- Release or escape of any transgenic organisms (e.g., transgenic flies, animals, and plants) from containment.
- Inadvertent or accidental spills of rDNA outside of containment.

### What I need to know...

- ✓ Review the exposure control plan for the agent.
- ✓ Wash or rinse the affected area immediately for fifteen (15) minutes.
- ✓ Report all biohazard exposures and injuries when they occur.
- ✓ Contact EH&S at [biosafety@usc.edu](mailto:biosafety@usc.edu) for more information.

### What should I do if I'm exposed to rDNA?

Treat the injury or exposure FIRST. Wash or rinse the affected area for at least fifteen (15) minutes at an eyewash station or sink. Use a safety shower if large areas of the body are exposed. Report the incident to your supervisor followed by medical attention, if necessary. Follow steps in the exposure control plan to seek medical attention and to report potential injuries or exposures to biohazardous materials, including recombinant DNA (see reporting structure in rDNA Incident Flow Chart).

### Where do I get treatment?

Injured/exposed research staff are directed to any of these USC-Approved Occupational Medicine facilities: <http://tiny.cc/usc-med-fac>. **USC Employees: Please bring your completed Worker's Compensation Claim form (<http://tiny.cc/DWC1>) to expedite service.**

### Additional Information

Exposure Control Plans. See USC Institutional Biosafety Committee Forms & Resources <http://adminopsnet.usc.edu/node/192>

Non-Emergency Injury Reporting Fact Sheet <http://tiny.cc/usc-ehs-nonEmrgInjryRptFS>

1-2-3 Serious Injury Reporting Web Page [http://bit.do/usc\\_ehs\\_123Notify](http://bit.do/usc_ehs_123Notify)

