



Accidents Involving Biohazardous and/or Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acids Materials

REPORTING

To comply with institutional and federal reporting requirements, personnel are required to report any accident (e.g. inoculation, ingestion, skin and mucosa contact, inhalation, spills) involving biohazardous and/or recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid materials. Accident reporting plays a critical role in preventing injuries, so corrective action can be taken to prevent future incidents.



Notify your supervisor that an accident occurred (within 24 hours). Principal Investigators (PI) must promptly notify the Biosafety Office (BSOf) of laboratory accidents.

If an accident involves recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid materials, the BSOf must notify the NIH. The BSOf will work with the PI to collectively fill in a [report form](#) to be sent to the NIH.

Accidents involving personal injury/illness must also be reported to the Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Office as instructed by the [Advisory 12.2](#).

The NIH MANDATES that all accidents involving recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid materials be reported, regardless of the source of research funding.



Near misses: Close calls or witnessed activities with potential for injury or exposure should also be reported to the BSOf. Evaluation of near misses are of extreme importance in order to establish alternative work practices and implementation of engineering controls to minimize future incidents.

Afraid of repercussions? There is no penalty applied to those who report an accident. We believe accidents are lessons we can learn from!