



Hazard and Risk Communication in the Laboratory

Student Guide




GLOBAL BIORISK MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM

Hazard & Risk Communication


Welcome & Introductions





Introductions

- Instructors
- Students
 - Your name?
 - Where are you from?



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Action Plan

By the end of this lesson, I would like to:

KNOW		FEEL		BE ABLE TO DO	
------	--	------	--	---------------	--

Your learning doesn't stop with this lesson. Use this space to think about what else you need to do or learn to put the information from this lesson into practice.

What more do I need to know or do?	How will I acquire the knowledge or skills?	How will I know that I've succeeded?	How will I use this new learning in my job?

Use space on back, if needed

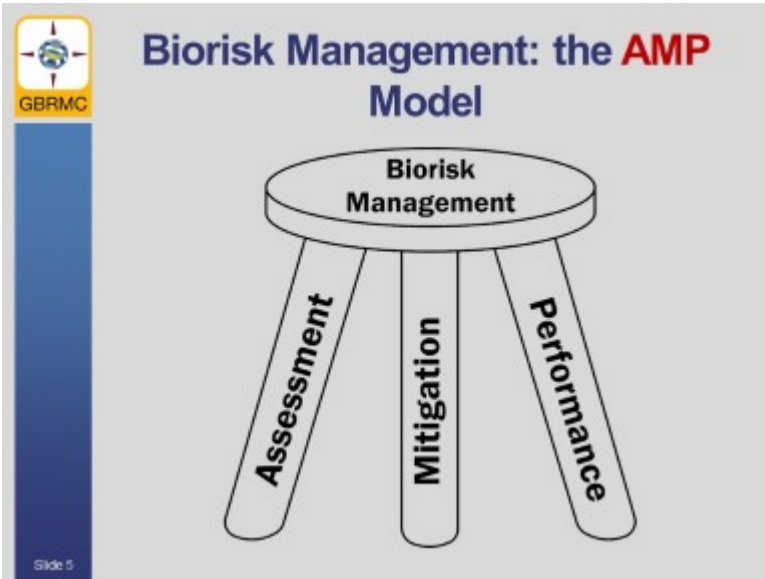


Key Messages


- Not all hazards are identified or apparent.
- Many laboratory-acquired infections have occurred when known hazards have not been clearly identified to all those with access to a laboratory or equipment.
- Many laboratory-acquired infections have occurred when unknown hazards are encountered.
- Simple strategies to use sign, symbols, and other types of communication can clarify the risk profile of a laboratory or equipment.
- Hazard communication must extend beyond those who are knowledgeable about the work.

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Notes:




Notes:



Key Components of Biorisk Management

- **Biorisk Assessment**
 - Process of identifying the hazards and evaluating the risks associated with biological agents and toxins, taking into account the adequacy of any existing controls, and deciding whether or not the risks are acceptable



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Notes:



Key Components of Biorisk Management

- **Biorisk Mitigation**
 - Actions and control measures that are put into place to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with biological agents and toxins



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Notes:



Key Components of Biorisk Management

- **Biorisk Performance**
 - Improving biorisk management by recording, measuring, and evaluating organizational actions and outcomes to reduce biorisk.



Notes:

Hazard & Risk Communication

Why is hazard communication important?



What Would You Want to Know?

Question:

You are asked to **retrieve and transport** a microorganism culture from the centrifuge for a coworker who is working in the biosafety cabinet.

What precautions would you take?

In your group, please spend **10 minutes** to list the precautions both in your **workbook** and on your group's **flip chart**.

Be prepared to report your answers to the class.

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List the precautions necessary for someone who is transporting a sample of microorganism from the centrifuge to the biosafety cabinet, and explain *why* you chose each precaution.



**You Don't Know
What You Don't Know**

- Laboratory-Acquired Infections:
 - SARS, Singapore, 2003
 - Vaccinia, Virginia, USA, 2008
 - Cowpox, Illinois, USA, 2010
- No infections, but. . .
 - Anthrax, California, USA, 2004

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Lack of information or even basic knowledge about other agents present in the same lab has caused laboratory-acquired infections. A majority of LAIs have a declared unknown source. While some of the sources of infection may legitimately be unknown, many of these might be able to be tracked if appropriate hazard communication were used in the laboratory.



What do you do about an “Unknown”?

Question:

You are asked to perform a laboratory procedure with a human blood sample.

What would you like to know about the sample before you work with it?

In your group, please spend **5 minutes** to discuss the question

What would you do if the answer to most or all of your questions is, “I don’t know?”


List the questions you would ask about the sample in your **workbook**. Be prepared to report to the class.

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What did your group determine as important to know about a human blood sample?




How would you respond if the answer to the above questions was “I don’t know”?

Why is it always safest to treat the sample as contaminated to the greatest extent?



What do These Symbols Mean?

- How are they used?
- What should you do if you encounter one of them?



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What does each of these symbols indicate, and how are they used?

What should you do if you encounter one of these symbols?



International Biohazard Symbol

*“Biological hazards are usually impossible to detect by cursory examination only. * * * It seems logical, then, to mark the location of biohazards with a suitable warning sign that is readily noticed and easily recognized.”*

Baldwin & Runkle, 1967, Science, pg 264



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Use of Biohazard Warning Symbol

From the Science article:

The symbol “shall be used to signify the actual or potential presence of a biohazard and shall identify equipment, containers, rooms, materials, experimental animals, or combinations thereof which contain or are contaminated with viable hazardous agents.”

Biohazard = “those infectious agents presenting a risk or potential risk to the well-being of man, either through his infection or indirectly through disruption of his environment.”

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Hazard Communication

Group Exercise:


Work in your groups, for **5 minutes**, to answer the following questions:

1. What **methods** can you use to make sure that people who can enter a lab are aware of the hazards in the lab?
 - Put each **method** on a **sticky note**
2. Who are the people who may enter the laboratory?
 - Put each **person** on a **sticky note**

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List as many methods as possible that ensure that those entering the lab are fully informed of the hazards:

Consider the earlier discussion of meaningfulness and memorability – is there a risk to labeling everything as hazardous?



Hazard Communication Plan

Group Exercise:

Work in your groups, for **10 minutes**, to design a **hazard communication plan** for your assigned scenario.

Assume that your lab employs people who work with pathogens and people who work in or will enter the lab but not work directly with pathogens.

A **basic laboratory floor plan and worksheet table** are included in your workbook to help you with this task.

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Any questions before you get started?

Remember, assumed that your lab employs people that work directly with pathogens and people that will simply enter the lab but not work directly with pathogens!

General Facility Callouts

1. Lab 2 (BSL II)
2. Freezer
3. East emergency exit
4. Lab 3 (BSL II)
5. Limited Area entrance
6. Main building entrance
7. Offices and work areas
8. Delivery entrance / West emergency exit 1
9. West emergency exit 2
10. Break area
11. Utility closet
12. Men's restroom
13. Women's restroom
14. Autoclave access area
15. Lab 4 (BSL II)
16. Dressing room
17. Anteroom

Lab 1 (BSL III) Callouts

- A. Airlock
- B. Mechanical room
- C. Lab 1a
- D. Lab 1b
- E. Autoclave
- F. Lab 1c
- G. Change room
- H. Shower
- I. Entry
- J. Central area



Scenario 1

- Your lab is a food science laboratory working with *Lactobacillus* species.
- Your lab houses the only -80°C freezer in the building and other laboratories have asked if they can store their cultures and stocks in your freezer. You have enough space for each lab to have their own shelf.
- The building houses bacteriology, virology, and field epidemiology labs. All have expressed interest in using your freezer.



Scenario 2

- Your lab studies food-borne disease and focuses on *Salmonella* species that have been collected during various outbreaks of food poisoning.
- Your lab houses a centrifuge, refrigerator, freezer, and incubator as well as standard laboratory benches and equipment (automatic pipettes, culture plates, etc.)



Scenario 3

- Your laboratory does research with adenovirus – one agent that causes the common cold as well as some gastrointestinal illness. Adenovirus has been known to cause eye infections as well.
- Your laboratory has standard laboratory equipment but also has a microscope that you use to observe the plaques created when growing the virus.



Scenario 4

- Your laboratory cultures 50 mL volumes of verotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*, by using a heated shaker that is housed in a common space, shared by two other labs in the same corridor.
- Once your cultures are grown, they are transported down the corridor into the main lab where they are centrifuged. Some samples are frozen and others are refrigerated for further experimentation.

Review of Hazard Communication

To wrap-up, let's discuss what we learned about **Hazard and Risk Communication in the Laboratory.**

What did we learn? What does it mean? Where do we go from here?

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What might be some outcomes if a lab does not practice hazard communication?

What aspects of hazard communication could be improved in your lab?

What steps are necessary to make that improvement?

Remember to jot this down on your action plan and try to give yourself a due date for accomplishing these steps!!



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