

10.1.4 Procedures

If any person responsible for the carriage or opening of packages containing infectious substances becomes aware of damage to or leakage from such a package, that person must:

- Avoid further handling of the package or keep handling to a minimum;
- Inspect adjacent packages for contamination and put any aside that may have been contaminated;
- Inform the appropriate public health authority or veterinary authority and provide information on any other countries of transit where persons may have been exposed to danger;
- Notify the shipper and the consignee;
- Contact the national transportation emergency agency:
 - In the USA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)—(800) 232 0124

Note:

The CDC is not to be used to fulfill the US requirement of providing an emergency response telephone number on the shipping paper (unless, of course, the CDC is actually the shipper).

- In Canada: CANUTEC—(613) 996 6666;
- Proceed with further handling of the package only if authorized and trained. Use appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. disposable gloves);
- Follow established spill clean-up procedures if required.

10.2 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the event of a mishap, the following procedures are to be followed.

10.2.1 Spills or Leaks

DO NOT CLEAN-UP OR DISPOSE OF INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES, EXCEPT UNDER SUPERVISION OF A SPECIALIST.

- Isolate spill or leak area immediately;
- Keep unauthorized personnel away;
- Obtain identity of substance involved if possible and report the spill to the appropriate authorities;
- Do not touch or walk through spilled material;
- Do not touch damaged containers or spilled material unless wearing appropriate protective clothing;
- Be particularly careful to avoid contact with broken glass or sharp objects that may cause cuts or abrasions that could significantly increase the hazard of exposure;
- Damaged packages containing solid CO₂ (dry ice) used as a refrigerant may produce water or frost from condensation of air. Do not touch this liquid as it could be contaminated by the contents of the parcel;
- Liquid nitrogen may be present and can cause severe burns;
- Absorb spilled materials with earth, sand or other non-combustible material while avoiding direct contact;
- Cover damaged package or spilled material with damp towel or rag and keep wet with liquid bleach or other disinfectant. Liquid bleach will generally effectively inactivate the released substance.

10.2.2 First Aid

- Move exposed person(s) to a safe isolated area.

CAUTION: Exposed person(s) may be a source of contamination. Persons administering first aid should take precautions to avoid personal exposure or secondary contamination of others.

- Call emergency medical services;
- If clothing and/or shoes are significantly contaminated, remove and isolate them. However, do not allow this to delay other first aid interventions;
- In case of contact of the substance to skin, eyes, nose or mouth, immediately flush the exposed area with copious amounts of running water. Continue this until emergency medical services arrives. Follow their advice for further decontamination;
- Most effects of exposure (inhalation, ingestion or skin contact) to substance are likely to be delayed;
- Ensure that medical personnel are aware of the substances involved so they can take precautions to protect themselves.

For further assistance, contact the appropriate public health authority.