



# GUIDELINE FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE BIOHAZARD REMEDICATION AND DECONTAMINATION: BEST PRACTICES AND CONSIDERATIONS

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WHITE PAPER

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# Introduction

Traumatic and other life events that involve biohazardous contamination are often complex and challenging situations that require specialized knowledge, skills, and equipment to ensure the safety and health of those involved. These difficult conditions usually need remediation and decontamination of hazardous materials and surfaces in addition to proper disposal of medical waste. In this paper, we will outline important considerations for various types of life situations that often require remediation and decontamination such as crime scenes, unattended deaths, suicides, hoarding, and drug lab cleanup to ensure restoration to a safe and healthy environment.



# Traumatic Life Events

## Crime Scene

The first step in restoring a crime scene to its pre-event state is securing the area to prevent unauthorized access and preserve the integrity of the investigation. Before any cleanup efforts begin, all evidence must be collected and properly documented. Once the evidence collection process is complete, the focus shifts to thoroughly disinfecting and decontaminating all surfaces in the crime scene. This includes removing any bodily fluids, fingerprint dust, drug debris, or tear gas residue. It is also important to take special care to remove all threats of viruses and diseases to ensure the safety of those who may come in contact with the area. Remediation is a crucial component of the investigation process and must be carried out with precision and care.

## Unattended Death

The main focus when handling biohazardous waste is preventing exposure to potentially infectious agents or other materials that are deemed a threat to public health or the environment. This is why PPE is mandatory when handling any bio-waste or contaminated materials. The scene must also be secured to prevent unauthorized access and preserve the integrity of the area should there need to be an investigation. Once the area is secured, all bio-waste, such as bodily fluids and tissue, must be properly disposed of in accordance with local regulations followed by a thorough cleaning process.

## Suicide

When addressing this delicate and complex process it is critical to preserve and secure the integrity of the scene and prevent unauthorized access. Only after clearance from authorities does the decontamination process begin. All bio-waste, such as bodily fluids and tissue, must be properly disposed of in accordance with local regulations and thoroughly disinfected and sanitized. It is important to have a professional and empathetic team who can navigate the emotional impact of these traumatic events and can approach the job with sensitivity.



## Traumatic Life Events (Cont.)

### Drug Lab

Using an experienced, professional company when cleaning a drug lab is crucial due to several factors, such as the presence of hazardous chemicals, the potential for fire or explosion, and the risk of contamination with harmful substances. Additionally, illegal drug labs often involve illegal activity, which requires cooperation with the authorities. Furthermore, the presence of drug residue or other harmful substances can pose a risk to the health and safety of workers, and special precautions and protective measures including the use of PPE must be taken to ensure their safety.

### Hoarding

This is a complex process that requires all hazardous materials found at the scene, such as chemicals and expired food items, to be properly disposed of in accordance with local regulations. Only then can the area be cleaned, disinfected, and sanitized to eliminate the presence of contaminants and pathogens. Special care should be taken to remove all threats of viruses and diseases, as hoarding conditions can often create an environment that fosters the growth of bacteria and other pathogens. The intent is to restore the area to a safe and healthy environment for occupants and visitors alike.

### Sewage Overflow

Biohazard remediation of sewage is a critical process that aims to eliminate or minimize the risk of exposure to harmful pathogens present in wastewater. Sewage contains a variety of hazardous materials, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites, which can pose a significant threat to public health if not properly treated. The decontamination process involves a series of steps, including the removal of solid waste, disinfection with chemicals or heat, and filtration. The process also includes the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect workers from exposure to pathogens. By properly decontaminating sewage, the risk of illness and disease can be significantly reduced, thereby promoting a healthy and safe living environment for all.



# Impacted Industries

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## Educational Institutions



Schools, universities, and other educational facilities may need biohazard cleanup services in the event of a student or staff member becoming ill or injured, a fatality, or in the case of a laboratory accident involving hazardous materials.



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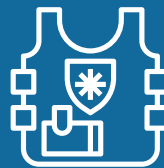
## Hotels & Multifamily Properties



Hotels, apartments, and other multi-unit properties may need biohazard cleanup services in the event of an unattended death, suicide or other incidents involving bodily fluids.

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## Law Enforcement



Crime scenes, including homicides, suicides, and drug-related incidents, often involve blood and other biohazards that need to be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent the spread of disease.

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## Transportation Vehicles



Law enforcement vehicles, ambulances, and other vehicles used for transportation may require biohazard cleanup in the event of a crime or medical emergency.

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## Residential Properties



Hoarding properties may require biohazard cleanup services due to the accumulation of waste and unsanitary living conditions.

# How to Choose a Trusted Professional

Using an experienced company for biohazardous and medical waste removal and decontamination offers several benefits. Professional companies have the expertise, resources, and equipment necessary to handle complex and hazardous situations, ensuring that the remediation process is carried out safely, efficiently, and in accordance with regulations and standards. They also have the necessary PPE and disinfectants to protect those involved from exposure to biohazards and to effectively sanitize and disinfect the scene. In addition, professional companies have established processes and protocols in place to ensure the proper disposal of hazardous waste, which is essential for the safety and health of those involved.

Collaboration with local authorities is a vital component when handling many of life's traumatic events. Professional companies bring their specialized skills and resources to the table, ensuring that the remediation and decontamination process follows industry protocol. Experienced technicians understand the significance of this partnership and recognize the importance of working in tandem with these agencies to safeguard both the area and those involved.

Finally, cleaning up after a traumatic event can be a distressing experience for the family and friends of the victims. It is important to be empathetic and compassionate towards those affected by the trauma and to handle the situation with dignity and respect, preserving the privacy of the victims and their families. A professional company offers practiced crews that can navigate difficult situations.

Looking for a company that has extensive experience and expertise in the industry, and a proven track record of providing safe and effective remediation and decontamination services ensures that you are working with a reputable and reliable company.



# Training & Certification

Reputable firms often belong to relevant associations and hold applicable certifications in order to ensure their services are performed to the highest standards of safety and professionalism. Some of the most recognized certifications and associations in the industry include:

## **The National Institute of Decontamination Specialists (NIDS)**

NID is a professional organization that provides training and certification in the field of biohazard remediation and decontamination.

## **The American Bio Recovery Association (ABRA)**

The BRA is a trade association for the biohazard remediation industry, offering training, certification, and resources for professionals in the field.

## **The Institute of Inspection, Cleaning, and Restoration Certification (IICRC)**

The IICRC is an internationally recognized organization that provides certification and standards for professionals in the restoration and cleaning industries, including trauma and biohazard scene cleanup.

## **The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

OSHA provides guidelines and regulations for worker safety and health, including guidelines for workers handling hazardous waste and materials.

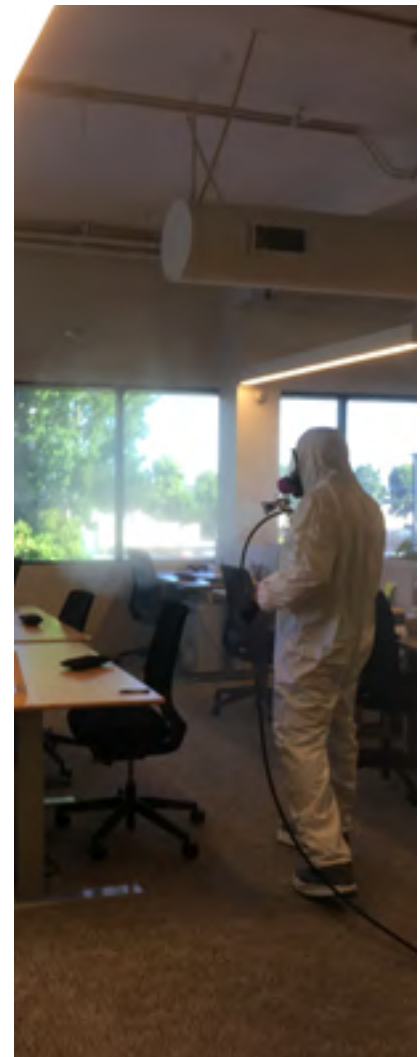
Belonging to these organizations and holding certifications demonstrates a company's commitment to providing safe and effective services, as well as their investment in ongoing education and training for their workers. Choosing a company that is affiliated with these associations and certifications can provide peace of mind for clients and customers, knowing that their property and the health and safety of those involved are in good hands.

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## **Did You Know?**

According to the National Safety Council, an average of **12,000 people die from accidental blood exposure** each year in the United States alone.

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# Conclusion

In summary, biohazard remediation and decontamination demand a high level of expertise, specialized skills, empathy, and equipment. Hiring a reputable company to carry out this task has several advantages, including access to resources, appropriate disposal of hazardous waste, and expert knowledge. Proper training, personal protective equipment, and disinfection procedures are vital to guaranteeing the safe and efficient completion of each job. By taking these important factors into account, a professional company can ensure that the decontamination and remediation process is carried out effectively and without harm to human health or the environment.







## Contact Us

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