

NEIDL Agent Incident Reporting Summary January 2021 - March 2021, Q1

Date of Incident	Incident Type / Agent Involved	BSL	Transmissible Person to Person	Description	Reportable Incident	Reportable of Clinical Illness	Agency Reported To	Comments / Corrective Actions
2/23/21	Breach of BSL4 Suit	BSL 4	No	A BSL4 researcher discovered a tear in his supplied air suit while in the shower exiting the BSL4 lab. The researcher noticed a hissing sound while in the shower, inflated the suit and discovered a tear by the head of his suit between a zipper and plastic section measuring about 3mm.	Yes	No	BPHC	EHS did a follow up with the user. Risk assessment: the location of the breach was far away from the working area. User was always on air while working under the BSC with Select agent. The incident posed a very low risk of potential exposure to SA and recommendation was to follow up with ROHP. Root cause was attributed to broken/defective equipment. EHS retrained personnel on pre-entry suit integrity test procedure. EHS retrained user on notification; EHS must be notified immediately for the suit or glove tear incidents.
3/1/21	Breach of BSL4 suit glove	BSL 4	No	A BSL4 researcher performing necropsy on a non-human primate infected with Ebola sustained a breach of his suit glove on the left index finger measuring a pin hole but two gloves under the suit glove that were not compromised. After reviewing with the biosafety officer and infection control, this case was deemed to be a non-exposure.	Yes	No	BPHC	EHS tested the suit glove and found a pinpoint hole 1mm in size at the base of the left index finger compatible with damage that occurs while connecting to breathing air (user is left handed). The user was wearing two inner gloves, and both were tested and were found intact. There were no accidents or spills during the procedure or problems with room air pressures. The necropsy was conducted utilizing 9-inch-long instruments and tissues are never manipulated by hand. Root cause was attributed to inadequate procedure. The researcher was retrained on the appropriate way of connecting and disconnecting from air using online training module in BioRaft