Small Group Exercises[1]

Exercise 2: Incident Response

For the following incidents, what do you think is the appropriate response?

1. You are working in the BSL-3 laboratory with a colleague. While removing cultures from the environmental shaker your colleague faints; the flasks crash to the floor. It appears that the colleague is having a heart attack.

   a. What is the first course of action?

   b. Does the area require evacuation?

   c. What is the process for getting medical assistance to the ill colleague?

   d. Are emergency response personnel allowed access to the BSL3 lab? If so, what is the process by which they enter?

[1] SAND No. 2006-1994C

2. Your experiment runs into the evening; you are tired, hungry and decide to leave for the night. Prior to leaving, you inoculate fresh cultures and put them on the shaker in the BSL-3 lab. The next morning you arrive at 0800 to continue the experiments after the requisite 12-hour incubation period. At the lab you realize the door is unlocked; since it was late when you left, you were tired and therefore must have neglected to lock the lab door. Upon entry into the lab you see the freezer door ajar. Before closing the freezer door you peer in and realize the boxes of bacterial stocks, which are normally in alphabetical order on racks, appear to be in disarray.

   a. What is the first course of action?

   b. Should this incident be reported? To whom?

   c. Is there an inventory that will help identify if vials are missing?

   d. What security measures could have been taken to prevent this type of incident?