

# SEPTEMBER: Biohazards

Let's talk about poop and other  
**UNMENTIONABLES**



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## Crime Scene – Sewage – Blood – Suicide – Homicide – Meth Lab – Tear Gas – Chemicals – Vandalism – Graffiti – Bodily fluids

These are words that we don't particularly like to talk about but in efforts for your Emergency Preparedness, you need to ask yourself, "Do we have a plan?" Exposure to biological and chemical contaminants can pose serious health consequences. A failure to properly remove such substances can contribute to unhealthy and dangerous environments. Most Biohazard & Chemical Cleanups require professionals who are trained to safely clean and remove these substances and dispose of them properly in accordance with OSHA and health regulations. Debris and paint removal due to vandalism and graffiti can not only be dangerous, but if not done properly can result in additional damage.

### What to do until help arrives

Biohazard contaminants should be considered very dangerous as they can pose a serious health risk. Sewer backups and flood water are two most common biohazard scenarios that can affect homes and businesses, and can make you very sick. **SAFETY** should be your #1 priority. *Follow this checklist until professionals arrive:*

- 1) If the situation appears to be life-threatening, call emergency services at 911
- 2) Stay OUT of affected areas
- 3) Determine whether other parts of the building not affected are safe to enter and evacuate all contaminated areas
- 4) Only do activities that are safe for you/your employees to perform
- 5) Treat all bodily fluids as if they are contaminated
- 6) Treat all chemicals as if they are combustible
- 7) Turn OFF the HVAC if there is sewage or chemical damage
- 8) Treat this contamination as an emergency and contact a reputable 24/7 Emergency Response Team, like SERVPRO®, who have the training, protective gear, & specialized equipment necessary to safely clean and restore these types of contaminations



### What NOT to do:

- 1) Don't use a vacuum/shop vac to remove contaminated water
- 2) Don't use televisions, computers, and other major appliances
- 3) Don't turn on ceiling fixtures if ceiling is wet - if the ceiling is sagging, keep out of that room

### Crime Scene / Vandalism Clean Up:

Trust trained professionals to clean debris, evidence-collecting residues, toxic chemicals, and paint after active crime scene or vandalism contamination. Proper disposal by OSHA and health regulations can prevent secondary contaminations to our environment.