



BCIT Safety Manual

MOUSE DROPPING/URINE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN



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1. Purpose

This exposure control plan is designed to minimize employee and student exposure to mouse droppings/urine through prevention and control measures.

2. Applicable Legislation and Reference Materials

WorkSafeBC [Regulation Guidelines Part 6 –Biological Agents](#)

WorkSafeBC [Regulation Guideline Section 5.54 –Exposure Control Plan](#)

3. Roles & Responsibilities

3.1 *BCIT Responsibilities*

- Support the implementation of the Exposure Control Plan.

3.2 *BCIT Facilities Management*

- Coordinate an integrated pest management program with a pest control contractor.
- Ensure contracted workers are effectively trained to understand this exposure control plan.
- Confirm that contractors have effective safe work procedures for all activities with a potential for creating exposures to mouse droppings/urine.
- Ensure contracted workers adhere to safe work practices for the removal/cleanup of mouse carcasses, droppings/urine and nesting materials.
- Ensure BCIT Facilities employees are effectively trained to understand this exposure control plan, health hazards from exposures to droppings/urine and how to safely work in areas potentially contaminated with mouse droppings/urine.
- Communicate a periodic summary regarding mouse activity, trapping and dropping clean up to the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

3.3 *BCIT Instructors/Supervisors/Managers*

- Read and be familiar with this Exposure Control Plan.
- Review health hazard information with employees and students under their charge.
- Regularly inspect the work area for signs of mouse activity and report any such activity to BCIT Facilities.
- Ensure any employees cleaning small amounts of mouse dropping/urine follows designated safe work procedures outlined below.



3.4 BCIT Employee

- Read and be familiar with this Exposure Control Plan.
- Inspect their work area regularly to ensure a safe work environment.
- Report signs of mouse activity and droppings to their supervisor and BCIT Facilities.
- Follow safe work practice listed below if cleaning small amounts of droppings within their area.

4. Risk Identification, Assessment & Control

4.1 Health Hazards

The most common way mice transmit disease organisms is by contaminating food with their droppings and/or urine. The table below lists the health concerns and respective symptoms associated with exposure to mice urine or droppings.

Salmonellosis	bacterial food poisoning, infection with or disease caused by bacteria of the genus <i>Salmonella</i> typically marked by gastroenteritis
Rickettsia pox	a disease characterized by fever, chills, headache, backache, and a spotty rash, caused by a bacterium transmitted to humans by the bite of a mite living on the house mouse.
Leptospirosis	Bacterial infection characterized by jaundice and fever transmitted to humans by contact with the urine of infected animals.
Tularemia	Bacterial infection characterized by intermittent fever and swelling of the lymph nodes. transmitted to humans through the bite
Dermatitis	Inflammation of the skin; skin becomes itchy and may develop blisters and is caused by the bites of mites from the mice.
Lyme disease	an acute inflammatory disease that is usually characterized initially by the skin lesion erythema migraines and by fatigue, fever, and chills transmitted by the bite of a tick
Tapeworm	Parasite of the intestine, transmitted by ingestion of contaminated products
Favus	a contagious skin disease of humans that is caused by a fungus called honeycomb ringworm

4.2 Routes of Exposure

Ingestion is the primary route of exposure to the biological agents associated with mouse droppings and urine. However, inhalation is potential if dried droppings or urine are aerosolized.



4.3 Risk Assessment

Work Group	Activities	Risk of Exposure
BCIT employees	Occupying any space with the potential for mouse activity.	Low
BCIT Facilities workers	Performing work duties which may bring them into close proximity or potential contact with mouse droppings or nests.	Low
Contracted custodial workers*	General cleaning of work areas. Specific cleaning of contaminated surfaces, flooring and equipment. Removal of mouse carcasses	Moderate
Contracted Exterior Landscape workers*	Landscaping activities which may bring them into close proximity to droppings or nests.	Low
Contracted Pest Control workers*	Pest Control activities which include contact/removal with rodents, carcasses, droppings, and nesting materials.	Moderate

* Non BCIT employees covered by their respective health and safety programs

4.4 Control Measures

Integrated Pest Management

Pest management will be the primary control method used to decrease the potential for BCIT employee's exposure to mouse droppings. Such a program will include trapping, baiting, removal of nests and the sealing of buildings to limit mouse activity within BCIT work areas.

Education and Training

All BCIT employees will receive education concerning the health effects of mouse dropping/urine, and this exposure control plan. Any contractor performing activities with the potential for exposures must be able to demonstrate that their employees have received hazard communication training related to mouse dropping/urine exposures. BCIT Facilities will ensure that contractor employees are made aware of the provisions of this exposure control plan.

Safe Work Procedures

The cleaning and removal of mice, carcasses, dropping/urine and nests is the responsibility of contracted employees. Contractors must demonstrate to BCIT Facilities that their respective work practices are effective in limiting potential exposures and do not create a hazard for BCIT employees.



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BCIT employees are encouraged to report mouse droppings/urine to BCIT Facilities to be cleaned by contracted workers. However, if a BCIT employee chooses to clean up small amounts of dropping/urine, the safe work procedures listed below must be adhered to:

- Put on gloves.
- Use bleach-containing disinfectant wipe* to remove droppings and wipe up urine.
- Use a second wipe to wipe down the surrounding area.
- Place all items and gloves in a central garbage receptacle.
- Practice hand hygiene with warm water and soap.

* Non bleach containing disinfectant products may be used if demonstrated to be effective against the hazard.

Health Monitoring

All employees must promptly report any symptoms, potentially related to mouse dropping/urine exposure, to their Supervisor and the First Aid Attendant for further investigation.

5. Documentation

BCIT Facilities will maintain documentation related to the pest management program including records or sightings, control strategies and contractor safe work procedures.

6. Program Review

This Exposure Control Plan will be reviewed annually for the following:

- The effectiveness of control measures and work procedures used.
- First aid reports related to mice, and droppings/urine exposures.
- Documentation requirements.