

HAZ-MAT SPILL RESPONSE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are to be followed by departmental personnel and students in response to spills of hazardous materials. It is important that the safety of individuals must always be the foremost priority in responding to spills regardless of how insignificant or innocuous the size of spill or specific hazardous material may seem. For the purpose of these guidelines a non-emergency spill is defined as: a release of a hazardous material in a quantity and of a hazard consistent with normal usage by a specific individual in a particular application, e.g. 200 ml of dilute acid spilled on a bench top, and nobody is contaminated or injured. In contrast, however, a spill constituting an emergency is: a spill of a volume and/or hazard that is above and beyond the normal usage by a particular individual during a specific application, e.g dropping and breaking a 1 gallon container of concentrated acid while dispensing 50 ml prior to dilution.

Initial Discovery and Response

Step 1: **SAFETY**

Provide for your personal safety first: If you are contaminated wash with running water for a minimum of 15 minutes.

If any other individual is contaminated and is able to walk under their own power, then assist them in washing. You may become contaminated in providing assistance and, therefore, should also wash.

If there are victims who have become incapacitated due to chemical exposure or suspected chemical exposure do NOT attempt rescue. Call Public Safety by dialing 911 from either a campus or public phone. [note: You cannot contribute to a positive outcome if you become incapacitated while attempting rescue; be a part of the solution, don't become part of the emergency.]

Step 2: **ISOLATE / DENY ENTRY**

Isolate the spill area so that others know where the spill is and so that no one unknowingly walks into the contaminated area. This may be accomplished by closing doors, posting other individuals at doors or hallways to warn people, barrier tape, etc.

Step 3: **NOTIFY**

Non-emergency spill, notify your supervisor, course instructor, others in the immediate area of the spill.

Emergency spill: notify individuals within the immediate area, contact Public Safety at ext. 3456 or 911, then contact your supervisor.

Spill Containment and Clean-up

Non-emergency spills: The user(s) of the hazardous material this is spilled will be responsible for containment and clean-up. The rationale for this is that because the volume and/or hazard are consistent with the normal usage, and the user(s) is required to be properly trained and equipped to work with the material under normal conditions, then, consequently, it is within the user's capabilities and resources to safely clean up the spilled area.

Emergency spills: When an individual is injured or contaminated and/or when the volume or degree of hazard of the spilled material is above and beyond that associated with normal usage, then Environmental Health and Safety shall either perform or coordinate outside agencies/resources to clean up the spill.