

SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Minor Spills

In the event of a spill involving the release of a type or quantity of a chemical which does not pose an immediate risk to health and does not involve chemical contamination to the body:

- Notify lab or shop personnel and neighbors of the accident
- Isolate the area by closing lab or shop doors
- Locate spill kit and choose appropriate PPE.
- Confine and contain the spill with appropriate absorbent material. Acid and base spills should be neutralized prior to cleanup
- Sweep solid material into a plastic dustpan and place in a sealed container.
- Establish exhaust ventilation and vent vapors to outside by turning on fume hoods or opening windows.
- Put all contaminated items (gloves, clothing, etc.) into a sealed container or plastic bag.
- Label container with “yellow chemical waste tags”.
- Call EHS (ext. 4305) for special pickup if necessary.

Call EHS during business hours (8:00 am – 4:30 pm) at ext. 4305

Dial 911 after business hours IF SPILL IS:

- Greater than 1 gallon
- Very toxic
- Poses a fire hazard
- If you need assistance
- If chemical is unknown

Dial 911 after business hours

Major Spills

In the event of a chemical spill which: 1) involves the release of a type or quantity of a chemical that poses an immediate risk to life and health; or 2) involves an uncontrolled fire or explosion:

- Evacuate the building by activating the nearest fire alarm
- Call 911 and give details of the accident including location, types of hazardous materials involved, and whether there is a personal injury.

If the accident involves personal injury or chemical contamination, follow the above steps as appropriate and at the same time:

- Move the victim from the immediate area of fire, explosion, or spill (if this can be done without further injury to victim or you).
- Locate nearest emergency eyewash or safety shower. Remove any contaminated clothing from the victim and flush all areas of the body contacted by chemicals with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes.
- Administer first aid as appropriate and seek medical attention.

Last modified: 1 June 2011