



Chemical Emergency Procedures

General Response and Clean-Up

Updated August 2024

These are the first basic steps to follow in the event of a chemical release. A chemical emergency is defined as an event in which a chemical is released into the environment and poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of persons in proximity to the chemical(s).

General Information

Chemical spills should only be cleaned up by knowledgeable and experienced personnel.

A chemical release that causes any exposure and/or harm to a person or persons is considered a chemical accident. As such, an Accident Incident Investigation Report [AIIR] form must be completed. In the event of a chemical release into the environment, the Chemical Hygiene Officer [CHO] must be notified immediately.

Cleaning Up Small Chemical Spills

If you are cleaning up a small chemical spill, make sure that you are aware of the hazards associated with the spilled materials, have adequate ventilation and proper personal protective equipment (minimum – gloves and safety glasses). Consider all residual chemicals and cleanup materials (adsorbent, gloves, etc.) as potentially hazardous waste. Place these materials in a sealed container and store in the chemical storage shed. Contact the CHO for disposal instructions.

Minor Chemical Spill

- Alert people in immediate area of spill to maintain safe distance.
- Increase ventilation in area of spill (open windows).
- Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and body protection.
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Use an appropriate spill neutralizer or clean up kit (vermiculite, dry sand, diatomaceous earth, or absorbents). Collect residue, place it in container, and dispose of it as hazardous chemical waste.
- Clean spill area with appropriate methods for neutralization.



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Major Chemical Spill IMMEDIATE CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

A. Evacuate the area and from a safe location to call:

Security 813-257-7777 or xtn. 7777

Ask Security to contact Lori Jennis or Angela Jordan

B. Provide the Security Guard with the following information:

1. State precisely the nature of the emergency.
2. Indicate what chemical is involved and the estimated quantity.
3. Give an exact location of the incident by campus building, floor, wing, etc.
4. Describe any known injuries to personnel.
5. Secure the area by alerting other employees to clear the area.

C. Possible Questions You May be Asked About the Spill:

- Is the spilled material flammable and are there ignition or heat sources nearby?
- Are there doors that can be closed to affected areas?
- Are there fumes, flames, or irritating odor that have been created by the emergency?

D. DO NOT TRY TO CLEAN UP AN UNKNOWN CHEMICAL SPILL OR MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL.

E. Initiate Accident Incident Investigation Procedures