Environmental Health & Safety

Chemical Spills

In the event of a spill involving hazardous chemicals:

1. Keep a safe distance from the spilled material.
2. Notify laboratory personnel.
3. During business hours (8 am to 5 pm) contact Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 657-278-7233.
4. After hours or if there is an injury/exposure, contact the University Police Department (UPD) by calling 9-1-1 or 657-278-2515.
5. Restrict access to the spill area to everyone but trained personnel.

Faculty, Staff, Students

If you are trained to respond to laboratory spills less than one liter:

1. Evacuate the area
2. Contact Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) at 657.278.7233 (8am-5pm). After hours, contact the University Police Department (UPD) at 9-1-1, or 657-278-2515.
3. From a safe distance, try to gather as much information on the spilled chemical as possible. If the chemical name can be found, look up its MSDS and determine the PPE required. If the chemical is very volatile (becomes airborne) and a respirator is required, do not complete any more steps and wait for EHS to arrive.
4. Isolate the area and restrict access to anyone except trained personnel.
5. Locate the Laboratory Chemical Spill Kit found in all teaching and research labs.
6. Put on the protective clothing in the Kit (chemical goggles, impervious nitrile gloves, Tyvek lab coat and booties).
7. Confine and contain the spilled material. For liquids, apply absorbent powder or absorbent pads around the perimeter of the spill to stop the spread, and then apply enough absorbent (or use pads) to cover the entire spill and allow it to fully absorb. Carefully scoop the soaked absorbent/pads and dispose in the plastic bags located inside the Laboratory Chemical Spill Kit. Label the bag with contents, and make sure to decontaminate the area with a mild soap and water solution. Contact EHS for further action. **NOTE: DO NOT USE ABSORBENT POWDER ON HYDROFLUORIC ACID (HF) SPILLS!**
8. Wait for Environmental Health and Safety to further control the spilled material, decontaminate the area and manage the hazardous material disposal.
9. Fill out a Campus Safety Report and submit the form to the Department Chair and Environmental Health and Safety.
10. If there is an injury or exposure to students/visitors, fill out a Campus Injury Report Form and submit the form to the Department Chair and Risk Management, CP700.
Environmental Health and Safety
1. Manage spills of liquids, solids, radioisotopes, and the release of gases.
2. Make all regulatory notifications based on the assessment of the material.
3. Notify the UPD as well as the appropriate campus personnel (Dean of the College, Department Chair, EHS Director, Risk Management, Administration Vice President, etc.) as required.

University Police Department
1. Place a perimeter around the spill area and restrict access to unauthorized personnel.
2. Provide medical aide to all injured persons.

Incidents Involving Non-Campus Persons
If the spill involves a person that is not part of the campus community, obtain their name, the name of the company and phone number (if applicable), person(s) responsible for the campus location, person(s) involved in the incident, persons injured, insurance information, and contact information.

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