

CHEMICAL SPILL PROCEDURES

The range and quantity of hazardous substances used in Laboratories & Plants require preplanning to respond safely to chemical spills. The cleanup of a chemical spill should only be done by knowledgeable and experienced personnel. Spill kits with instructions, absorbents, reactants, and protective equipment should be available to clean up minor spills. A minor chemical spill is one that the staff is capable of handling safely without the assistance of safety and emergency personnel. All other chemical spills are considered major.

Minor Chemical Spill Procedures

- Alert people in the immediate area of spill
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Put on protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and long-sleeved lab coat.
- Confine spill to small area.
- Use appropriate materials to neutralize and absorb inorganic acids and bases.
- Collect residue, place in appropriate container, and dispose as chemical waste.
- For other chemicals, absorb spill with vermiculite, dry sand, or absorbent pads.
- Clean spill area with water.

Major Chemical Spill Procedure

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in the area to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
- Close doors to affected area.
- Call 911
- Have person knowledgeable of area assist emergency personnel.

Be prepared to tell the Police officer the following:

- What chemical(s) are involved
- How much was spilled
- Where the spill is located
- Nature of any injuries
- What control measures have been taken
- Your name and phone number

Wait for response personnel to arrive.

The officer will send someone to assist and will arrange for spill cleanup personnel to respond.

For specific questions regarding chemical spill response or chemical safety, call the Occupational and Environmental Safety Office at 6337 2735.