

Nuisance Spill Guide

Nuisance spills are defined as a very small spill that can generally be mitigated by a single person, typically the user of the material that was spilled. This spill is typically less than one liter in size (less than 50 ml for acutely hazardous material). These spills are typically contained to a fume hood in a laboratory or have no easy access to a floor or storm drain system.

Risk Management will provide technical assistance to employees mitigating nuisance spills as necessary.

Training

Risk Management will provide training to all university employees who handle hazardous materials. Initial training must be completed during the first month of employment, or before using any hazardous material (refresher training is provided annually thereafter).

University employees that use hazardous materials will be trained in the following areas:

1. Basics of University emergency response plan;
2. Basic hazards and risks associated with the materials they use;
3. How to select and use proper personal protective equipment;
4. How to perform basic control, containment and/or confinement operations within the capabilities of the resources and personal protective equipment available them; and
5. Basic decontamination procedures.

Spill Procedures For Nuisance Spills

1. Notify persons in the immediate area that a spill has occurred.
2. Follow the **Chemical Injury or Contamination Procedures**, if necessary.
3. Avoid breathing vapors, mists or dust of the spilled material.
4. Turn off all ignition sources.
5. Proper personal protection equipment shall be worn during the clean up of all nuisance spills.
6. Local personnel will be responsible for the containment and clean up of all nuisance spills.
 - a. Review MSDS for specific spill response instructions and to review health risks for the hazardous materials.
 - b. If necessary, contain the spill using an appropriate absorbent material.
 - c. If necessary, neutralize spilled material using an appropriate neutralizing agent.
 - d. Place neutralized and/or absorbed material into a container capable of handling the weight of the waste.
 - e. Decontaminate and store all non-disposable personal protective equipment.
 - f. Place all disposable personal protective equipment into waste container.
 - g. Manage all wastes as a potential hazardous waste.
7. Notify Risk Management of the spill. Be prepared to give the following information:
 - a. Name
 - b. Supervisor's Name
 - c. Nature of injuries, if any
 - d. Location
 - e. Material Spilled
 - f. Amount

Chemical Injury or Contamination Procedures

- For spills contacting the of skin, follow these procedures:
 1. Notify others of injury.
 2. Immediately flush with flowing water for no less than 15 minutes (i.e. sink or safety shower).
 3. If there is no visible burn, wash with warm water and soap, removing any jewelry to facilitate clearing of any residual material.
 4. Check the material safety data sheet to see if any delayed effects should be expected.
 5. Seek medical attention for even minor chemical burns.
 6. Do not use creams or lotions.
- For spills on clothing, follow these procedures:
 1. Notify others of injury.
 2. Do not attempt to wipe the clothes.
 3. Quickly remove all contaminated clothing, shoes, and jewelry while using the safety shower.
 4. Seconds count, so do not waste time because of modesty
 5. Take care not to spread the chemical on the skin or, especially, in the eyes.
 6. Use caution when removing pullover shirts or sweaters to prevent contamination of the eyes; it may be better to cut the clothing off.
 7. Immediately flood the affected body area with warm water for no less than 15 minutes. Resume if pain returns.
 8. Get medical attention as soon as possible.
 9. Discard contaminated clothes as hazardous waste or have them laundered separately from other clothing.
- For splashes into the eye, take these steps:
 1. Notify others of injury.
 2. Using the eyewash immediately flush for at least 15 minutes.
 3. Hold the eyelids away from the eyeball, and move the eye up and down and sideways to wash thoroughly behind the eyelids.
 4. Get medical attention immediately.