Emergency Reporting & Assistance

Serious or Life-Threatening

From Lab Phone:

x9911 or 911

From Cell Phone or Off Site:

911

Non-Life-Threatening Emergency Event

From Lab Phone:

x2575

From Cell Phone or Off Site:

312-553-2575

CHEMICAL SPILL – use S.W.I.M.S

S

STOP and THINK. Stop working. Stop the spill.

Assess the situation:

- How big is the spill?
- Are there any injuries associated with the spill?
- Has it made contact with your skin or personal clothing?
- Can it be safely cleaned? Note: Follow the Spill Cleanup Requirements listed below to make this decision.

W

Warn others

- Call the EMERGENCY number if there is a medical emergency or danger to life, health, or the environment.
- Alert people nearby.

I

Isolate the area

- Restrict access to those involved in the spill cleanup.
- Keep doors closed.

M

Monitor yourself carefully and completely

- Check yourself for any chemical contamination or signs/symptoms of exposure (e.g., wet clothing, skin or respiratory irritation).
- For medical emergencies follow directions under the PERSONAL INJURY tab.

S

STAY in or near the area until help arrives

- Minimize your movements. Avoid spreading contamination to other areas.
- Have a person who is knowledgeable of the incident available to talk to or assist emergency personnel.
- Notify your supervisor.

Chemical spill cleanup requirements

You can clean up a chemical spill if **ALL** of the following requirements are met:

- You are NOT a high school student, or a participant in an internship program.
- There is no potential for release to the environment. Note: Care must be taken to avoid spreading or tracking chemical contamination to other areas.
- There are no personal injuries resulting from the spill.
- You know what the chemical hazards are.
- The cleanup procedures are known and you have the proper spill cleanup materials.
- You have the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to protect yourself during the cleanup.
- The spill can be cleaned up safely by two people in one hour or less.
- The spill does NOT involve elemental mercury. Special cleanup and monitoring procedures are required for mercury spills. Moreover, mercury contamination is easily tracked to other areas.

If ALL of the above requirements are not met or if you have any doubts about your ability to safely and effectively clean up the spill, then:

- Leave the immediate area.
- Close the door.
- Stay close by and control access. Post the entrance with a warning such as "Spill—Do Not Enter" and call the NON-LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY number for assistance.

Other chemical spill cleanup considerations

- Review these guidelines periodically — you must be familiar with them and know what to do before a spill occurs.
- Understand the hazards of the chemicals you use. Consult the Material Safety Data Sheets (use the A-Z index on LBNL's home page).
- Keep spill cleanup kits in your work area. There are different types for acids, bases, and solvents.
- Consult the Chemical Hygiene and Safety Plan (use the A-Z index on LBNL's home page) for selecting and purchasing spill cleanup kits.
- Wear the proper PPE to protect yourself. The minimum includes a lab coat (or coveralls), chemical goggles, closed-toe shoes and chemically resistant gloves rated for the chemical(s) of concern. Consult the Chemical Hygiene and Safety Plan for selecting and using eye/face protection and gloves.
- Ensure waste materials are properly contained and labeled and are placed in an approved Satellite Accumulation Area.
- Inform your supervisor.
- Take Chemical Hygiene and Safety Training — EHS 348 for people who work in laboratories, or EHS 345 for Facilities personnel.