

Radiation Safety

Minor Spills and Emergencies

Minor Spills and emergencies are those spills of a few microcuries of activity where the radionuclide does not become airborne and emergencies where there is no personal injury.

Lab personnel utilizing the spill kit provided to each laboratory by the Radiation Safety Program can handle most minor spills. Detailed procedures to follow are:

1. Notify all individuals in the room at once.
2. Limit access to the area to those persons necessary to deal with the spill. Do not let other persons into the area until the spill is decontaminated.
3. Open the lab spill kit and obtain necessary supplies.
4. Confine the spill immediately.

Liquid Spills:

- o Put on protective gloves and clothing.
- o Drop absorbent paper or vermiculite on the spill.

Dry Spills:

- o Put on protective gloves and clothing.
 - o Dampen thoroughly, taking care not to spread the contamination. Generally, water may be used, except where a chemical reaction with the water could generate an air contaminant or a chemical or physical hazard. Mineral oil or another predetermined organic solvent should then be used.
5. Notify Radiation Safety of the spill at the first opportunity. If after hours notify [campus police](#) (229-9911) who can contact members of the Radiation Safety Program staff.
 6. Survey personnel involved with the spill before they disperse; decontaminate or change clothes as necessary.
 7. Complete systematic decontamination based on a pre-established plan of action.
 8. Submit a written report of the accident to the Radiation Safety Officer. Include a complete history of the accident and subsequent corrective measures, which were taken, and signatures of all individuals involved.