



General Campus Emergency Procedures Chemical Spills

Definition:

A contamination with harmful or potentially harmful chemicals such as the burning of fossils, release of hazardous materials, and chemicals used in labs, construction and industry when introduced into the environment and water supply by spillages, industrial accidents, or intentional release.

Introduction:

In the event of a chemical spill, the individual(s) who caused the spill is responsible for prompt notification to appropriate authorities. As is the case with biological releases, the best way to protect yourself is to minimize your exposure time, distance yourself from the spill, and wear personal protective equipment if available.

Procedures:

- Immediately alert area occupants and evacuate the area, if necessary.
- If there is a fire or medical attention is needed, call 9-1-1 or campus police.
- Attend to any people who may be contaminated. Contaminated clothing must be removed immediately and the skin flushed with water for no less than fifteen minutes. Clothing must be laundered before reuse.
- If a volatile, flammable material is spilled, immediately warn everyone, control sources of ignition and ventilate the area. If the spill can possibly enter a floor drain and a spill kit is available, place dyking material between the drain and the most forward point of the spill.
- Wear personal protective equipment, as appropriate to the hazards. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet or other references for information.
- Consider the need for respiratory protection. The use of a respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus requires specialized training and medical surveillance.
- Never enter a contaminated atmosphere without protection or use a respirator without training.