

## **I. Introduction**

The following procedure refers to the cleanup of general laboratory spills in non life-threatening situations. Any spills involving serious injury, fire, or large quantities of hazardous materials (greater than 4L) require the assistance of Campus Police - evacuate the area and call 911. (See EH&S attachment for additional information.)

It is assumed that all persons working with chemicals (professors, lab instructors, stockroom technicians, teaching assistants and research assistants) have read the MSDSs (located in Rm 303, in the hall outside Rm 311 and in the respective research labs) prior to each lab and are familiar with the hazardous properties of the chemicals being used. This information is vital when responding to a spill. If necessary, refer to the MSDS before cleaning up the spill. Do not hesitate to call the stockroom (x1303) for assistance.

## **II. Emergency Spill Response**

### **A. Equipment**

- 1) Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as needed.
- 2) A spill kit for non-Mercury spills containing:
  - a) safety goggles,
  - b) nitrile gloves,
  - c) *Spilfyter* spill pads -this is a universal absorbent pad for use with all chemicals (except hydrofluoric acid). *3M Sorb Pads* for use with hydrofluoric acid are available from the stockroom.
  - d) non-sparking scoop for collecting spill,
  - e) plastic bag for collection of waste,
  - f) HazMat label for identifying contents of waste bag.
- 3) Mercury Spill Kit - A spill response kit for cleanup of mercury spills ONLY containing:
  - a) flowers of sulfur powder in shaker container,
  - b) plastic dust pan and brush,
  - c) plastic Tupperware container for collection of waste.

**B. Location of Equipment -** Spill kits are located in the following rooms: 117a, 204, 210, 212, 215, 215a, 217, 220a, 304, 305, 313, 314.

### **C. Response Procedure**

- 1) Assist contaminated persons - see Emergency Action Plan, Personal Injury.
- 2) Evacuate the area and assess the situation.
- 3) For flammable materials, use gas shut-off valve and remove all sources of ignition.
- 4) Obtain appropriate spill response equipment.
- 5) Put on appropriate personal protection equipment.

C. Response Procedure (cont.)

6) Clean up as follows:

a) Liquid Spills

- Dike and cover the spill with the spill pads.
- After ALL liquid is absorbed, place pads in plastic waste bag and seal.
- Fill out HazMat label, place on waste bag, place bag in the room with the spill kit.
- Wipe down spill area using water and paper towels - dry with paper towels.
- Notify the stockroom for proper disposal of the waste.

b) Solid Spills

- Using paper towels or dust broom, push solid into plastic scoop.  
DO NOT RAISE DUST.
- Deposit in plastic waste bag and seal.
- Fill out HazMat label, place on waste bag, place bag in the room with the spill kit.
- Wipe down spill area using water and paper towels - dry with paper towels.
- Notify the stockroom for proper disposal of the waste.

c) Mercury Spills - Clean up with Mercury Spill Kit **ONLY**

- Sprinkle entire spill area lightly with flowers of sulfur.
- Using brush from Mercury Spill Kit, push spilled material (and broken glass in the case of a broken thermometer) into the Mercury Spill Kit dust pan.
- Dump dustpan contents into the Mercury Waste container.
- Notify the stockroom.

### III. Summary

After clean up of spill, determine the cause of the spill and identify measures to prevent future spills. Complete an EH&S Safety Hazard/Incident Report (Form 1). Under corrective action taken, ask the persons involved to describe how to prevent such spills in the future. Give the report signed by the faculty or staff and student to the department safety officer. Log the spill in the Lab Incidence Log Book. Use this opportunity to review safety procedures with students, TAs, and others in the lab.