



RADIOACTIVE SPILLS AND EMERGENCIES



MINOR SPILLS POSING MINIMAL HAZARD TO LABORATORY PERSONNEL

1. Notify all laboratory personnel immediately.
2. Restrict access to the contaminated area to essential cleanup personnel only.
3. Contaminated or potentially contaminated personnel should exit the immediate spill area and survey with an appropriate survey meter.
 - a. Contaminated clothing should be removed and placed in a plastic bag or other safe receptacle.
 - b. Contaminated areas of skin should be immediately decontaminated with mild soap and lukewarm water.
4. Notify the campus Radiation Safety Officer as soon as possible.
 - a. **During regular work hours – Environmental Health and Safety Office – (662) 325-0026**
 - b. **After work hours – MSU Police – (662) 325-2121**
5. All personnel assisting with the cleanup must be trained radiation workers and wear appropriate PPE such as gloves, labcoat, shoe covers, etc.
6. An appropriate survey meter must be operable and turned on.
7. Decontamination of the spill area must be performed under the supervision of the RSO.
8. Survey the hands and shoes of all cleanup personnel before exiting the laboratory.
9. Keep everyone out of the spill area until it has been cleared by the RSO.
10. Prepare a report providing the details of the spill. The report should include the nuclide(s) involved, the names of all personnel involved, and the response actions taken.

LARGE SPILLS OR CONTAMINATED PERSONNEL

1. Notify all personnel outside of the spill area to vacate the laboratory immediately.
2. Contaminated laboratory personnel must immediately exit the spill area and carefully remove contaminated clothing. Use caution when removing clothing to avoid contaminating skin and prevent ingestion or absorption of radioactive material through the eyes, nose, mouth, or any open wounds.
3. Survey potentially contaminated personnel carefully with an appropriate survey meter before allowing them to leave the scene.
4. Decontaminate skin with mild soap and lukewarm water. If contamination is detected in the eyes, immediately flush in an eyewash station or with large volumes of water.
5. Survey all personnel upon exiting the lab. Contaminated clothing and shoes must be collected, bagged, and kept in the lab.
6. Notify the campus Radiation Safety Officer as soon as possible.
 - a. **During regular work hours – Environmental Health and Safety Office – (662) 325-0026**
 - b. **After work hours – MSU Police – (662) 325-2121**
7. Decontaminate the spill area under the supervision of the RSO.
8. Prepare a report providing the details of the spill. The report should include the nuclide(s) involved, the names of all personnel involved, and the response actions taken.



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