EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

TO BE FOLLOWED IN CASE OF RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPE LOSS OR SPILL
All laboratory personnel should read these procedures prior to commencing work.

CONTACTS

| HEALTH PHYSICS/EHS | 212-746-4569 • 212-746-5756 • 646-962-7233 |
| SECURITY (After hours and weekends) | 212-746-0911 |

MINOR SPILLS – LESS THAN 100 mL or 10 mCi

NOTIFY: Notify all other persons in the room.
PREVENT THE SPREAD: Prevent the spread of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
CLEAN UP: Clean up the spill using disposable gloves, absorbent paper, and remote handling tongs. Carefully fold the absorbent paper with the clean side out and place in a plastic bag for later disposal as radioactive waste. Also place contaminated gloves and other contaminated, disposable material in the bag.
SURVEY: Survey the area with an appropriate low-range radiation detection survey meter or by wipe tests for removable contamination as appropriate. Check the area around the spill. Also check your hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination.
REPORT: Report the incident to the Health Physics Office.

MINOR SPILLS – DRY SPILLS

CLEAN UP: Wear rubber or plastic gloves and place damp absorbent paper over the spill. Take care not to spread the contamination.
NOTIFY: Call the Health Physics Office
DECON TAM INATE: Decontaminate the area as necessary.
ISOLATE: Permit no person to resume work in the area until Health Physics has confirmed a survey.

MAJOR SPILLS – GREATER THAN 100 mL or 10 mCi

CLEAR THE AREA: Notify all persons not involved to vacate the room at once.
PREVENT THE SPREAD: If a liquid spill, right the container (have hands protected with gloves). Prevent the further spread of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper, but DO NOT attempt to clean up the spill. To prevent the spread of contamination, limit the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated.
SHIELD THE SOURCE: Shield the source, if possible. This should be done only without further contamination or significant increase in radiation exposure.
CLOSE THE ROOM: Leave the room and lock the door(s) to prevent entry.
CALL FOR HELP: Notify the Health Physics Office immediately.
PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION: Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by Health Physics. If the spill is on the skin, flush thoroughly with lukewarm water and then wash with mild soap. Do not rub hard! If contamination remains, induce perspiration by covering the area with plastic, then wash again.
FOLLOW UP: Health Physics must monitor all persons involved in the spill. Only Health Physics can permit work to resume in or personnel to enter into the area of the spill.
Emergency Procedures for Radioactive Materials

**RADIOACTIVE DUSTS, MISTS, FUMES, GASES, ETC.**

**CLEAR THE AREA:** Notify other persons to evacuate the room.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD:** Hold breath, close valves, and turn off air-circulating devices as time permits.

**CLOSE THE ROOM:** Vacate the room. Close all doors and post area with a “Do Not Enter” sign.

**CALL FOR HELP:** Notify Health Physics or Security if after hours. Report suspected inhalations of radioactive materials. Detail all persons suspected of being contaminated.

**DECONTAMINATE:** Decontaminate as instructed by Health Physics.

**FOLLOW UP:** Health Physics must perform an air survey before work can be resumed.

**INJURIES INVOLVING RADIATION HAZARDS**

**PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION:** Wash minor wounds immediately, under running water, spreading edges of wound.

**REPORT:** Report all radiation accidents and injuries to personnel to the Health Physics Office.

**MEDICAL CARE:** Have employees proceed to Health Physics, Employee Health Service, or Urgent care. In the case of traumatic injury, call 212-472-2222 for medical assistance.

**FIRES INVOLVING POSSIBLE RADIATION HAZARDS**

**SOUND ALARM.**

**CALL FOR HELP:** Call Security at 212-746-0911 then call the Health Physics Office.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD:** Close all doors and windows.

**EXTINGUISH:** Extinguish the fire, if possible.

**FOLLOW UP:** Decontamination may be necessary before work is resumed.