



## Spill Procedures: Radioactive Materials

### >100 ml: Major Spills

- 1. CLEAR THE AREA**  
Notify all persons not involved to vacate the room at once.
- 2. PREVENT THE SPREAD**  
If a liquid spills, right the container (hands should be protected with gloves) and prevent the further spread of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper, but **DO NOT** attempt to clean up the spill. Limit the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated.
- 3. SHIELD THE SOURCE**  
Shield the source, if possible. This should only be done without further contamination or significant increase in radiation exposure.
- 4. CLOSE THE ROOM**  
Leave the room and lock the door(s) to prevent entry.
- 5. CALL FOR HELP**  
Notify Medical Health Physics immediately.
- 6. DECONTAMINATE**  
Decontaminate personnel by removing contaminated clothing, flushing contaminated skin with lukewarm water, and then washing with mild soap. If contamination remains, induce perspiration by covering the area with plastic. Then rewash the affected area to remove contamination released by perspiration.
- 7. FOLLOW UP**  
The Radiation Safety Officer will supervise the cleanup of the spill and will complete the *Radioactive Spill Report* and the *Radioactive Spill Contamination Survey*.

### <100 ml: Minor Spills

- 1. NOTIFY**  
Notify all persons in the room.
- 2. PREVENT THE SPREAD**  
Prevent the spread of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
- 3. CLEAN UP**  
Clean up the spill using disposable gloves and absorbent paper, and remote handling tongs. Carefully fold the absorbent paper with the clean side out and place it in a plastic bag for later disposal as radioactive waste. Also, put contaminated gloves and other contaminated, disposable material in the bag.
- 4. 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.
- 5. REPORT**  
Report the incident to Medical Health Physics immediately.
- 6. FOLLOW UP**  
The Radiation Safety Officer will follow up on the cleanup of the spill and complete the *Radioactive Spill Report* and the *Radioactive Spill Contamination Survey*.

#### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

**Medical Health Physics** 646-962-4567  
**Environmental Health and Safety** 646-962-7233  
**Security** 212-746-0911