



Subject: Safety Programs and Requirements:
**Emergency Response/Action Plan: Emergency Procedures
Chemical Spill**

Section: V

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Environment, Health,
& Safety Manual

Chemical Spill

The range and quantity of hazardous substances used in laboratories require preplanning to respond safely to chemical spills. Knowledgeable and experienced personnel should only perform the cleanup of a chemical spill. Spill kits with instructions, absorbents, reactants, and protective equipment should be available to clean up minor spills. A minor chemical spill is one that the laboratory staff is capable of handling safely without the assistance of safety and emergency personnel. All other chemical spills are considered major. Contact U of A Risk Management Services at 621-1790, to ensure proper procedures are being taken to clean up the spill.

Minor Chemical Spill:

- Alert people in immediate area of spill.
- Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and long-sleeve lab coat.
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Confine spill to small area.
- Use appropriate neutralizer for inorganic acids and bases. Absorb neutralized spill, collect residue, place in container, and dispose as chemical waste.
- For other chemicals, absorb spill with vermiculite, dry sand, or diatomaceous earth. Collect residue, place in container and dispose as chemical waste.
- Clean spill area with detergent and water.

Major Chemical Spill and Exposure:

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- Alert people in the immediate area to evacuate.
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
- Call Chemical Spill Emergency Response number (621-1790).
- Close doors to affected area.
- If the exposure is to hydrofluoric acid, contact area should immediately be flushed with water and calcium gluconate applied to the burn area.
- Have person knowledgeable of incident and laboratory assist emergency personnel.