University of Maryland Baltimore County
CAMPUS SPILL RESPONSE GUIDE

In any emergency, notify Campus Police at (410)455-5555 (ext. 5-5555) or dial 911. For all off-site locations, dial 911.

For ESH assistance, call (410)455-2918 or email esh@umbc.edu.

Introduction

There are various actions that campus personnel can take in the event of a chemical or material spill. UMBC Personnel may be able to respond to a small, contained spill. Personnel should never put themselves in harm's way or proceed if they are uncertain about the safety of the situation. If the situation is an emergency, or if there is any uncertainty about the safety or hazard level of a spill scenario, notify Campus Police or call 911. The appropriate responding authority will be notified.

It is essential to know what chemicals are involved, the quantity of the spill, and the exact location of the spill. The safety of everyone in the area is of paramount importance. If the spill could potentially harm someone, isolate the area where the spill occurred and call Campus Police at 410-455-5555 to report the spill.

Spill Supplies and Equipment

For departments, labs, shops, and other work units to be in the best position to manage small spills, it is also critical to ensure the area has the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and spill containment and clean-up materials.

The minimum recommended PPE for basic small spill response includes::

- Splash Goggles
- Lab coat, coverall, gown, or apron
- Nitrile or neoprene gloves - ensure good condition

The supplies needed to clean up a spill can vary, depending on the quantity and type of chemical or material that is spilled.

A recommended general list of supplies consists of the following:

- Polypropylene/absorbent pads
- Heavy duty trash bags
- Hazardous waste labels

- 5 gallon plastic container/bucket with a well-securing lid
- Dust pan and brush
- Laboratory/crucible tongs
- Clay absorbent

Ensure your spill supplies get re-stocked in a timely manner if any materials are used.

NOTE: Certain materials require special materials, handling and training to safely and effectively manage a spill. Examples include:

- Mercury (Hg) or mercury-containing materials
- Hydrofluoric acid (HF)

Do not attempt to clean or manage a spill of these substances if you do not have the necessary training and materials. Contact ESH for assistance.

Individual Actions Following a Spill

1. **Restrict access to the spill** so that unsuspecting persons or passersby do not inadvertently encounter spilled material and risk contaminating themselves or others.

2. **Don appropriate PPE** to ensure you are appropriately protected before approaching any spilled material.

3. **Isolate and contain** the spilled material. Correct any tipped over or lying containers if applicable and feasible. Place absorbent and/or containing or diking material around the spill to prevent spread.

4. **Absorb any remaining free liquid**. The appropriate absorbent will vary with the different chemicals. Spills of acids and bases can be easily absorbed into polypropylene pads. If Polypropylene pads are not available, a safe way to absorb most liquid is by using a clay absorbent similar to kitty litter. The clay is a safe, cheap and efficient absorbent for chemical spills.

5. **Broken Glass - Many spills involve broken glass. Use extreme caution when handling broken glass.** Do not use hands to clean up broken glass especially if contaminated. Use items such as tongs or a broom and dustpan.

6. **Neutralize any remaining residues and decontaminate the area**. This can be accomplished by using an acid or base neutralizer for corrosive chemicals or using warm, soapy water for other chemicals. NOTE: Water should never be used for chemicals that are water reactive.

7. **Inspect the area** for any remaining spill residue, hidden contamination, or other unsafe conditions. Once you are certain that none of these exist, place the entire contents of the cleaned up material and other contaminated materials into a heavy-duty trash bag or plastic container that can be sealed shut. Label the container as hazardous waste and specify the contents.

8. **Notify ESH to request a pickup** of the material once completed and submit an incident report. Report any injuries to ESH.

    - Reporting Injuries: https://safety.umbc.edu/work-related-injury-or-illness/

9. **Restock Materials** any materials used during the response.

For any additional questions regarding small spill response, contact the ESH office.