

LABORATORY/HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: MAJOR SPILLS

The variety and quantity of hazardous materials used on campus requires preplanning to safely respond to spills. Only personnel who are familiar with the hazards of the material should attempt to clean up a spill.

A **minor spill** is defined as an event that can be handled safely without the assistance of the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO) or emergency response personnel.

A **major spill** is defined as an event that cannot be handled safely without the assistance of the Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO) or emergency response personnel, including all events where a person is injured or contaminated.

- If someone is injured, call 911 from any campus phone or 404.727.6111.
- Call EHSO at 404.727.5922 during normal business hours (8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.)
- All other times call Emory Police at 911 from any campus phone or 404.727.6111.

When contacting the Emory Police Dispatcher and Environmental Health and Safety Office (EHSO), be prepared to answer the following questions:

- What was released?
- How much was released?
- Time when release occurred and is it continuing?
- Location of release?
- Are there injuries?
- Is there damage to facilities?

Major Spills

- Attend to injured or contaminated persons.
- Alert personnel in the area of the spill to evacuate the immediate area.
- Call Emory Police at 911 from any campus phone or 404.727.6111.
- Call EHSO at 404.727.5922 during normal business hours.
- Have a person knowledgeable of the incident and the material spilled available to assist emergency personnel.
- Refer to Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and appropriate cleanup guides for chemical spills. (MSDSs are found online at www.ehso.emory.edu/msds.htm.)
- If spilled material is flammable, turn off heat and ignition sources.
- Close doors to contain vapors and prevent personnel entry.
- If spill is radioactive, have potentially contaminated persons stay in one area until monitored.

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Environmental Release

If a potentially hazardous material is released or spilled into the environment, confine the release to prevent spread of contamination only if it is safe to do so.

- Notify persons in the area of the release.
- Attend to injured or contaminated persons.
- Move to an area of safety (up wind) of the release.
- Immediately notify emergency response personnel.
- During normal business hours (8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) call EHSO 404.727.5922 if no one is injured.
- All other times call Emory Police at 911 from any campus phone or 404.727.6111.
- Have a person knowledgeable of the incident and the material spilled available to assist emergency personnel.