

Radiation Spill

Minor Spill: A minor spill is the release of 100 microcuries or less of radioactive material that results in contamination.

- **Notify personnel in the area that a spill has occurred.**
- **Prevent the spread of contamination.**
 1. Restrict access to the area
 2. Survey the area and affected personnel to determine the extent of the contamination.
 3. If personal contamination has occurred call Radiation Safety immediately.
 4. Cover liquid spills with absorbent material (e.g. paper towels).
- **Decontaminate the affected area.**
 1. Clean the area from the outside-in to minimize the spread of contamination.
 2. Dispose of contaminated materials in the appropriate radioactive waste container.
 3. Survey the area to ensure that the contamination has been reduced to background levels.
 - If Contamination remains, notify Radiation Safety.

Personal Contamination: Contamination of the skin, eye or other part of the body. Such contamination may be a result of a spill, but may also occur incidental to work with radioactive materials.

- **Identify location(s) and magnitude of contamination.**
- **Call Radiation Safety Immediately for assistance!**
- **Contaminated Wound / Injury**
 1. If injury is serious, administer first aid and seek medical attention. See PERSONAL INJURY tab for more information.
 2. If wound is minor in nature, administer first aid and gently clean wound with mild soap and water.
 3. Refer to PERSONAL INJURY tab for reporting requirements and Occupational Health information.
- **Skin Contamination**
 1. Wash the affected area with mild soap and water and rinse for approximately 2 minutes.
 2. *Do not abrade the skin by scrubbing the area. If you have reached this point, wait for further assistance from Radiation Safety!*
 3. Assess the effectiveness of decontamination with a survey meter (or wipe test for H-3).
 4. Repeat if necessary.
- **Eye Contamination**
 1. Flush with an eye wash for several minutes.
 2. Assess the effectiveness of decontamination with a survey meter, if applicable.
 3. Repeat if necessary.
- **Contaminated Clothing or personal items**
 - These items should be bagged and set aside for Radiation Safety.

Major Spill: A major spill is the release of greater than 100 microcuries of radioactive material that results in contamination.

- **Notify personnel in the area that a spill has occurred.**
- **Call Radiation Safety Immediately for Assistance!**
- **Prevent the spread of contamination.**
 1. Restrict access to the area.
 2. Survey the area and affected personnel to determine the extent of the contamination.
 3. If personal contamination is discovered, follow procedures outlined under *Personal Contamination* above.
 4. Cover liquid spills with absorbent material (e.g. paper towels).
- **Radiation Safety staff will respond to assist with decontamination and waste disposal.**
 - Do not attempt to clean up the spill yourself.

Additional Site-specific Information: Spill Kit Location (absorbent, plastic bags, gloves): _____

Radiation Safety Contact Information: During Business Hours (901)448-5223 Off-Hours (Campus Police) (901)448-4444
email: radsafety@uthsc.edu

Authorized User: Name: _____ Phone: _____