

# **CHEMICAL SPILL**

## **PRECAUTIONS BEFORE WORKING WITH CHEMICALS...**

1. Always be familiar with the chemicals you are using and the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) that accompanies them. Before authorizing use of a chemical, make sure anyone requesting to use the chemical has been trained on the use of the chemical, understands the MSDS, and is familiar with the emergency procedures and cleanup requirements specified on the MSDS for that chemical.
2. Always make sure the MSDS is readily available while you are working with the chemical.
3. Spill kits with instructions, absorbents, reactants, and protective equipment should be readily available to clean up minor spills.
4. In laboratory or workshop areas, staff should be trained and capable of handling minor chemical spills safely without the assistance of safety and emergency personnel.

## **MINOR CHEMICAL SPILL...**

1. Alert people in the immediate area of the spill and evacuate the room if necessary.
2. Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and long-sleeve clothing before attempting to clean up the spill.
3. Avoid breathing vapors from the spill.
4. Confine the spill to a small area.
5. Use the appropriate kit to neutralize and absorb the spill, collect the residue, and place it in the appropriate container.
6. Call Environmental Health and Safety at 856-6458 or ext. 4902 to dispose of chemical waste.

## **MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL...**

1. Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure IF IT IS SAFE TO DO SO. Alert people to evacuate the area. Close all doors.
2. Bring the MSDS for the spilled chemical(s) with you.
3. Make the following phone calls as quickly as possible:

- a. Call the Environmental Health and Safety office (Rand Webb, ext. 4902 or 856-6458 or Nancy Sanchez, ext. 4041 or 815-7555) to assess the severity of the spill and arrange cleanup.
  - b. Call the Heating Plant to shut of HVAC in the area (898-4910) if warranted.
  - c. Call Police Services (see Emergency Telephones list in this booklet).
4. Have a person knowledgeable of the incident and the area assist emergency responders.