

Emergency Spill Response

1. **Observe** nature of spill: quantity and properties of chemicals
2. **Stop** or contain the source of the spill if it is safe to do so
3. **Call** for assistance *if needed*
4. **Cleanup** using appropriate means

CAN I CLEAN UP THE SPILL?

YES IF:

- There are no injuries
- No life or fire hazard
- Not highly reactive or toxic
- You have proper training and equipment

WHO DO I CALL?

- Spill is small or does not pose a life or property threat
 1. MSUM Environmental Health & Safety
477- 2998 (h) 287-2290 (m) 701-371-2109
- Spill is large or presents hazardous life or property threat, injuries are involved, or site needs to be secured
 1. Moorhead Police, Ambulance, Fire & Haz Mat Team
911 (9-911 on campus)
 2. MSUM Environmental Health & Safety
477- 2998 (h) 287-2290 (m) 701-371-2109
 3. MSUM Security 477- 2449
- Spill is large, highly hazardous material, or serious hazard to life or property, threat to storm-water system or groundwater, unknown chemicals spilled
 1. Minnesota Duty Officer
1-800-422-0798
 2. Moorhead Police, Ambulance, Fire & Haz Mat Team
9-911
 3. MSUM Environmental Health & Safety
477- 2998 (h) 287-2290 (m) 701-371-2109
 4. MSUM Security
477- 2449

Provide the following information:

- Name of caller, telephone number for call-backs at the scene or facility
- Have local officials been notified of incident? – Fire, Police, Sheriff
- Date, time and location of the incident– physical address, nearest cross streets, section/range, etc.
- Materials and quantity involved in incident
- Any surface waters or sewers impacted
- What has happened or what is happening

Containing a Spill

Contain the Source of the Spill

If it is safe to be in the area and proper personal protection equipment is available, contain the source of the spill. Examples of containment include the following:

For Liquid Material Spills:

- Always use the proper personal protection equipment
- Stop the source of leakage or spill
- Do not disperse contaminant: water sprayed on area will disperse chemical etc.
- Provide barrier for liquid materials to protect further runoff or water systems contamination
- In most outdoor cases where property damage is of less concern, do not extinguish fire. The fire will volatilize the chemical and aid in cleanup

For Hazardous Fumes:

- Never expose yourself to harmful fumes without proper training and equipment
- Establish ventilation by activating fume hoods and opening windows
- Close doors to contain fumes in smaller area
- When chemical vapors or gases are being spread through the building's air handling system, call Maintenance (2400) to have the ventilation system shut off. Evacuate the building and secure the entire building from the outside.
- When outdoors, stay up-wind from hazardous fumes to avoid exposure

Evacuation and Securing the Spill Area

To protect the safety of others, some large spills or hazardous fumes will require an evacuation of people who may be exposed to danger. In the event of an evacuation, make sure the proper authorities have been notified.

To Evacuate a Building:

- Sound the building fire alarm. Alert others in the area and evacuate everyone from the spill area.
- Contact Security at 2449, as the alarm reports to the main campus dispatch office
- Assist those with disabilities to an area of safe refuge: stairwells etc. Notify first responders of those in areas of safe refuge.

- Ensure all persons in an area of danger have been safely relocated

To Secure the Spill Area:

- Until emergency responders arrive on the scene, you and your staff will have to block off the entrances to the spill site and prevent people from entering the contaminated area
- Tape or rope off stairwells and elevators leading to the spill
- In cases of large outside chemical spills, keep upwind of the site
- Meet emergency responders and lead them to the affected area

Clean Up Procedures

Be sure to follow guidelines on notification of the proper authorities. Cleanup procedures will be based on the size of the spill, the location, qualities of the material, and training of the individuals involved.

Who Cleans Up a Spill?

CAN I CLEAN UP THE SPILL?

YES IF:

- There are no injuries
- No life, fire, or extreme environmental hazard is present
- Not highly reactive or toxic chemical
- The size of the spill is manageable
- You have proper training
- Proper equipment is available

Note: Make sure to report incidents you handle personally to MSUM Environmental Health and Safety 477-2998.

When to Seek Assistance:

- The spill is too large to manage
- Highly hazardous chemicals are involved
- Immediate threat to life, environment, or there is a fire threat
- There are injuries associated with the spill
- You do not have proper training
- Proper protection equipment or cleanup materials are not available

In many cases, departments on campus are equipped with the proper training and resources to clean up spills. In the case of a spill that has been stopped, is contained, and is not a serious

threat, contact department safety officials or MSUM Environmental Health & Safety for more information.

First Aid Procedures

IMPORTANT: Make sure the scene is safe, and the proper personal safety equipment is available.

- Call **9-911** for medical help
- Remove the victim from the spill area to fresh air. Do not endanger your own life by entering areas with toxic fumes without proper equipment.
- For chemical contact: immediately remove contaminated clothing and flush all areas of bodily contact with large amounts of water for at least 15 minutes
- Do not use neutralizing chemicals, unguents, creams, lotions or salves
- Resume wash before using soap if pain returns
- Wash skin with mild soap and water
- Get medical attention for victims

Locations of showers for emergency use:

Science Lab – all laboratories

Physical Plant- men's and women's restrooms

Residence Halls- All floors

Nemzek- locker rooms