



Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

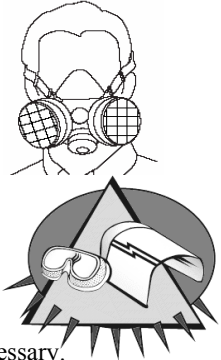
Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic 421: Emergency Chemical Spill Response

**Introduction:** In the event of a chemical spill, the individual(s) who caused the spill is responsible for prompt and proper clean-up. It is also their responsibility to have clean-up materials and equipment appropriate for the chemicals being handled readily available. For these, and other safety reasons it is very important to know the properties (e.g. hazards, volatility, reactions, etc.) of the chemicals you work with or handle. Use the MSDS sheets on each chemical to learn the appropriate level of protection required, proper handling, and clean up of chemicals used. Following are guidelines for response to emergency chemical spills:

**Appropriate materials and equipment should be kept on hand for clean-up of the chemicals being used:**

- **Personal protective equipment** – chemical resistant gloves, aprons, footwear, and splash proof eye/face protection. Respiratory protection should be used only by personnel trained, approved, and fit tested in its proper and safe use.
- **Absorbents** – spill socks, vermiculite, or clay (kitty litter) should be used to contain and soak up spills.
- **Containers** - polyethylene bags may be used for small spills. Five gallon pails or 20 gallon drums with polyethylene liners may be appropriate for larger quantities.
- **Pick-up equipment** – a brush and scoop, or broom and shovel, for picking up contaminated absorbent material.
- **Neutralizers** – made for acid or alkalines, many show a color change when neutralization is complete.
- **Detergents and cleaning supplies** – to thoroughly clean surfaces of any residual chemical.



**Procedure for handling chemical spills:**

- **If the chemical** is hazardous and in an enclosed area, immediately alert room occupants and evacuate the area, if necessary.
- **If there is a fire** or medical attention is needed, contact emergency services 911.
- **Attend to any personnel** who may be contaminated. Contaminated clothing and jewelry must be removed to facilitate easier removal of the chemical. Immediately flush the skin with water for no less than fifteen minutes. Seek medical attention and provide information on the chemical to medical personnel. Check the MSDS for any delayed or residual effects. Clothing must be laundered before reuse.
- **If a volatile or flammable material** is spilled, immediately warn everyone in the area, control sources of ignition, and ventilate the area.
- **Don personal protective equipment**, as appropriate to the hazards (Refer to the Material Safety Data Sheet or other references for information).
- **If the spill is large**, if there has been a release to the environment, or if there is no one knowledgeable about spill clean-up available, contact Public Safety by dialing 911.
- **Never enter** a contaminated atmosphere without protection or use a respirator without approval and training. If respiratory protection is used, be sure there is another person outside the spill area in communication, in case of an emergency.
- **Contain the spill** as soon as possible with a row of absorbents to prevent its spreading and further contamination. Protect floor drains or other means for environmental release. Spill socks and absorbents may be placed around drains, as needed.
- **Loose spill control materials** should be distributed over the entire spill area, working from the outside, circling to the inside. This reduces the chance of splash or spreading of the spilled chemical. Bulk absorbents and many types of spill pillows do not work with hydrofluoric acid. POLYZORB products and their equivalent must be used to handle hydrofluoric acid.
- **When spilled materials** have been absorbed, use a brush and scoop or broom and shovel to place materials in an appropriate container.
- **If the spill is on outside soil**, use a shovel to dig up any contaminated earth. Dispose of the contaminated earth with the absorbent material to prevent the chemical from entering ground water.
- **Label container(s)** with appropriate hazardous waste stickers listing the contents as *Spill Debris involving - (chemical name)*.
- **Remember that** the use of an adsorbent does not alter the chemical properties of that chemical.
- **Decontaminate** the surface where the spill occurred using a mild detergent and water.



**Conclusion:** Check with the local Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) office for disposal instructions for hazardous waste, or local fire, police, or health departments may direct you to a suitable disposal site. See meeting # 387: **Disposal of Oil and Oily Waste** for information on oil clean-up and recycling.



### Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)*

**Foreman/Supervisor's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*