

# **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR RADIATION INCIDENTS**

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## **Minor Spills of Liquids and Solids**

1. NOTIFY persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. PREVENT THE SPREAD of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
3. CLEAN UP the spill, wearing disposable gloves and using absorbent paper. Put contaminated gloves and other contaminated disposable material in a plastic bag for transfer to a radioactive waste container.
4. SURVEY the area with an appropriate low-range radiation survey meter or other appropriate technique. Check the area around the spill for contamination. Also check hands, clothing, and shoes.
5. PROMPTLY REPORT the incident to the Radiation Safety Department.
6. ALLOW NO ONE to return to work in the area unless approved by Radiation Safety.
7. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS are provided in Section 13 of the WVU Radiation Safety Manual.



## **Major Spills of Liquids and Solids**

1. CLEAR THE AREA. If appropriate, survey all persons not involved in the spill and vacate the room.
2. PREVENT THE SPREAD of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper, but do not attempt to clean it up. To prevent the spread of contamination, limit the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated. Shield the source only if it can be done without further contamination or significant increase in radiation exposure.
3. CLOSE THE ROOM and lock or otherwise secure the area to prevent entry until Radiation Safety arrives. Post the room with a sign to warn anyone trying to enter that a radioactive material spill has occurred.
4. NOTIFY the Radiation Safety Department immediately.
5. SURVEY all personnel who could possibly have been contaminated. Decontaminate personnel by removing contaminated clothing and flushing contaminated skin with lukewarm water and then washing with a mild soap.
6. ALLOW NO ONE to return to work in the area unless approved by Radiation Safety.
7. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS are provided in Section 13 of the WVU Radiation Safety Manual.

## **Emergency Numbers**

**Radiation Safety Department Office: 304-293-3413**

**On-Call Radiation Safety Specialist: 304-293-6430**

**Stephen Root, RSO: 304-685-2371**

**WVU Police Department: 304-293-3136**