

General Guidelines for Spill Clean Up

These are general guidelines that should be customized to meet the needs of the individual laboratory/studio or operation

- Move away from the spill
- Determine spill type: Is it minor or major/complex?

What Defines a Minor Spill:

- An amount that is safe to clean up
- The spill is easily contained from drains, ignition sources, and incompatible chemicals
- The spill is not immediately dangerous to life or health (IDLH)
- There is no likelihood of fire or explosion
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and person is fit tested and trained in use
- Appropriate spills kit is available and person has been trained how to use

Procedures for a Minor Spill:

- Alert staff in area; notify Supervisor/Principal Investigator
- Ventilate work area
- Consult Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)
- Wear the appropriate PPE before starting clean up
- Open spills kit. Place padded tube around floor drain to prevent spill from entering drain
- Does the chemical require special absorbents assigned by Supervisor/Principal Investigator?
- Sprinkle absorbent or pads onto spill, working from the outside toward the centre of the spill. This helps to eliminate movement and making the spill even bigger.
- Collect and contain the clean-up residues while using tools to reduce contact with spilled material
- Place pads, absorbent and waste into a double poly bag. Label with chemical waste label.
- Decontaminate the surface where the spill occurred and equipment with water and spill pads. Dispose of in same double poly bag
- Decontaminate the areas and affected equipment
- Dispose of gloves and place in same double poly bag

- Wash hands well after glove removal
- Dispose of Chemical Waste following RMM # 502
- Replace spills kit
- Complete McMaster University's Incident/Injury form and fax to EOHSS at 905 540-9085 or, where applicable to FHSc Safety Office at 905-528-8539. Provide a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) with the Incident Form

What Defines a Complex or Major Spill

- Any amount that is not safe to clean up
- There is a potential for release to atmosphere, discharge to sewer, leak into soils or surface water
- There is immediate danger to life or health
- There is likelihood of a fire or explosion
- No PPE is available and person has not been fit tested or trained
- Appropriate spills kit is not available

Procedures for a Complex or Major Spill

- Alert staff in area; contact Supervisor/Principal Investigator
- Provide rescue or first-aid only if you are safe to do so
- Pull fire alarm, or call Security/Emergency Response
- Be prepared to provide details of chemical spill (location, amount, Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and any other potential hazards/chemical mixtures)
- Ensure you move to a safe location
- Complete McMaster University's Incident/Injury form as outlined above

Emergency Numbers:

On Campus Emergency, Dial 88

Faculty of Health Science MUMC Site: Dial 5555

For Hospital hosted off campus locations, call Code Brown

For all other non hospital hosted off site locations, Dial 911