



Hazardous Material Spill Response Guidelines

These guidelines will help you address a hazardous spill. If it is a minor spill, you are trained and feel comfortable, and it is safe to follow steps 1 – 6 to clean up the spill. If not, call EHS at 4-6200.

Call 911 and EHS (4-6200) if:

- Life-threatening emergency
- Serious injury or contamination
- Major spills or high-risk chemicals involved
- Environmental release
- Unknown material

1. Secure the Area and Minimize Exposure

- Notify personnel in the area
- Restrict access
- Place “Caution” signage
- Attempt clean-up only if trained and feel comfortable and safe
- Review the Safety Data Sheet prior to cleaning the spill



2. Wear Appropriate PPE



3. Conduct a Risk Assessment; if Minor Low-Risk Spill (limited toxicity, flammability, volatility) Use Spill Kit

- Absorbent material
- Waste bags/sharps containers
- Dustpan-broom
- Tape/Zip-tie



4. Contain the Spill

- Start outside of spill to center
- Use appropriate absorbents based on chemical
- Protect floor drains
- Use tweezers, tongs, forceps, or dustpan-broom to collect sharps and broken glass (do not pick up sharps with hands)
- Place in appropriate sharps/broken glass container



5. Biohazard Spills Only

- Use absorbent pads or paper towels to cover the spill
- Slowly pour freshly prepared 10% bleach from outside to the center of the spill
- Allow to sit for 30 minutes
- Use Biohazard bags for waste



6. Collect and Dispose

- Use leak-resistant bags
- Double-bag
- Mark bag with full chemical name, concentration (if known), and date
- Place bags in chemical waste or spill bucket
- Decontaminate area with compatible disinfectant
- Contact EHS for disposal (<https://www.ehs.uci.edu/programs/enviro/>)
- Restock the spill kit



Report spill to your Supervisor and EHS (949-824-6200)

For follow-up and to refill your spill kit contact EHS

