

Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital Nuclear Medicine Radioactive Material Emergency Procedures

For Assistance Contact the RSO

During normal business hours: 615-322-2057

After normal business hours: 615-875-3779

A. Minor Spills

1. **NOTIFY:** Notify persons in the area that a spill has occurred, also notify environmental services to obtain a spill kit.
2. **PREVENT THE SPREAD:** Cover the spill with absorbent paper.
3. **CLEAN UP:** Use disposable gloves and remote handling tongs. Carefully fold the absorbent paper and pad. Insert into a plastic bag and dispose of in the radioactive waste container. Also, insert into the plastic bag all other contaminated materials, such as disposable gloves.
4. **SURVEY:** with a GM survey meter, check the area around the spill, hands, and clothing for contamination.
5. **REPORT:** Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Officer and your supervisor.

B. Major Spills of Radioactive Material

1. **CLEAR THE AREA:** Notify all personnel not involved in the spill to vacate the room.
2. **PREVENT THE SPREAD:** Cover the spill with absorbent pads, do not attempt to clean it up. Confine the movement of all personnel potentially contaminated to prevent the spread.
3. **SHIELD THE SOURCE:** If possible, the spill should be shielded, but only if it can be done without further contamination or without significantly increasing your radiation exposure.
4. **CLOSE THE ROOM:** Leave the room and lock the door(s) to prevent entry.
5. **CALL FOR HELP:** Notify the Radiation Safety Officer immediately.
6. **PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION:** Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by the Radiation Safety Officer. If contamination is present on the skin, flush thoroughly and then wash with mild soap and lukewarm water.