

Chemical Spill Guidelines

DO NOT Attempt to Clean Up a Spill Without Assistance from VEHS if:

- You are unsure how to proceed.
- You feel it may be unsafe to do so. Don't take chances and jeopardize your health and the health of those around you.
- You do not know the identity of the spilled material.
- You do not have adequate or proper materials for cleanup.
- The spill is in an area, which precludes easy access to the spilled material (i.e., on shelves with other materials).
- You feel any physical symptoms of exposure.
- If you have any hesitations, contact VEHS (322-2057)

If You Cannot Clean Up the Spill For Any Of These Reasons, then:

- Isolate the spill. Notify others of the spill.
- Evacuate the area. Close doors if the spill occurs within the laboratory. If the spill occurs within the hallway, quickly notify personnel in nearby rooms. Air movement in laboratory buildings is usually from the corridor to the labs.
- If the spill occurs outdoors while transporting chemicals, remain upwind. Warn people away from the spill and alert them not to walk downwind. Have one person remain with the spill to alert passerby of the hazard while assistance is sought from VEHS (322-2057)
- Notify VEHS immediately. Call from a safe location (i.e., not in the lab or room where the spill occurred). Call VEHS.
- If someone has been splashed with the chemical, begin flushing the contaminated area immediately with water. Continue to flush the affected area for 15 minutes. Seek medical attention if a possible health concern exists. If possible, bring a Materials Safety Data Sheet or call ahead to the emergency room to facilitate prompt and correct treatment of the injury.