# Emergencies Involving Radioactive Materials

For assistance contact the Office of Clinical and Research Safety (OCRS)

**Normal Business Hours:** 615-322-2057  
**After Normal Business Hours Emergency Number:** 615-875-3779

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<th>Emergency</th>
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| **SPILLS**                 | With millicurie amounts, radioactive contamination hazards may be significant. | • Notify others in the area  
• Evacuate if the spill is of a volatile material  
• Immediately remove contaminated shoes or clothing  
• For major spills: Barricade area and notify OCRS.  
• Proceed with decontamination.  
• Carefully survey area and all personnel. |
| **PERSONNEL CONTAMINATION**| Decontaminate promptly. Hazard is greatest if there are open wounds. | • Wash contaminated skin with soap and tepid water  
• Flush eyes if an eye splash occurred.  
• Immediately remove contaminated shoes or clothing  
• Immediately contact OCRS  
*Prompt action is necessary to minimize uptake and radiation dose.* |
| **AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY** | Uptake of radioactive material possible. Contamination easily spread. | • Shut off source of contamination, if possible.  
• Notify others to vacate the area.  
• Shut windows and doors.  
• Immediately contact OCRS  
• Shut off air handling unit.  
• Contact Plant Operations (VU) 615-343-9675 or Facilities Management (VUMC) 615-343-4443 |
| **ACCIDENTAL UPTAKE OF RADIOACTIVITY** | Hazards vary with amount of uptake and toxicity of the radionuclide. | • Immediately contact OCRS  
• Action varies depending on radionuclide and chemical form. |
| **FIRES INVOLVING RADIOACTIVITY** | Internal hazard from airborne activity. Contamination may be spread by fire-fighting techniques. | • Notify all persons in area.  
• Activate nearest fire alarm.  
• Notify Security Department.  
• Attempt to extinguish fire if radiation & fire hazard is not serious.  
• Immediately notify OCRS |

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