

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

Emergency	Hazard	Immediate Actions
SPIILLS	With millicurie amounts, radioactive contamination hazards may be significant.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash contaminated skin with soap and tepid water • Flush eyes if an eye splash occurred. • Immediately remove contaminated shoes or clothing • Immediately contact OCRS <p><i>Prompt action is necessary to minimize uptake and radiation dose.</i></p>
AIRBORNE RADIOACTIVITY	Uptake of radioactive material possible. Contamination easily spread.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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