

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

EMERGENCY CHEMICAL SPILLS *Page 1 of 2*

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

General: A spill of hazardous material could harm other workers and the environment. All chemical spills, large or small, must be considered serious as Provincial and Federal laws are very stringent in this regard and the possibility of exposure and or injury. Violations can also result in fines and lawsuits.

Disposal of Hazardous Waste: Hazardous wastes such as used oil, solvent, etc., must be disposed of properly. If you are unsure of the proper procedure, speak to your supervisor.

Equipment and Materials to Cleanup Spills: Ensure that any specialty PPE and other equipment which may be required for the cleanup of accidental spills are available at all times.

For more information on the types of equipment and materials need to be kept on hand for cleanup/decontamination of spill sites, consult the following:

- Product MSDS
- Guidelines provided in the OH&S Regulations, Part XXI
- Spill procedure/rules of the individual job site, if applicable.

In the Case of an Accidental Spill:

1. Report the incident immediately to the supervisor. Whenever possible (provided the spilled substance does not provide a danger to persons in the area), do not leave the spill site unattended. Know the spilled substance(s) involved before taking any action.
2. Immediately seal off area.
3. Take immediate corrective action regarding the safety of people involved i.e., flushing eyes for 30 minutes, flushing skin, etc.
4. Check the MSDS for the personal protective equipment to be used (the routes to be protected) and the dangers involved in the clean up (e.g. toxicity, absorption, inhalation).
5. Care must be taken to insure that the spill control media (absorbents, etc.) does not react with the spilled substance causing fire, toxic gas release, or violent reactions.

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6. Where the spilled substance creates a fire hazard, inform all workers in the area. Immediately stop all welding, cutting, burning activities, and extinguish all sources of ignition in the area of the spill.
7. In the case of a toxic fumes or fire from spilled substances, follow the emergency evacuation procedure and evacuate the building or work area immediately. Contact the appropriate emergency agencies (fire department, etc.).
8. Where an emergency evacuation has taken place, do not re-enter the evacuated area until it has been established that it is safe to do so, and the "all clear" has been given.
9. When the spill has been successfully cleaned up, ensure all required reporting of the incident is done. (Incident Report, any reports required by government agencies, etc.).