

Emergency Response Procedure – Code Yellow

Chemical Spill

Respond	<p>Alert people in the immediate area to keep away.</p> <p>Avoid breathing vapours. If you are not in immediate danger and can do so safely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off ignition sources if the spill involves a flammable or oxidising liquid or gas • Prevent chemicals entering drains • Prevent further spillage (e.g. turn off a pump or tap or upright a container)
Evaluate	<p>Move away from the spill while deciding what to do next.</p> <p>Identify the spilled material and hazard. Review the Safety Data Sheet.</p>
Major Spills	<p>A major spill is a spill that is large scale or presents an immediate fire or explosion hazard or is otherwise highly dangerous. Assistance is required for major spills.</p> <p>Evacuate the area, closing all doors. Keep people away.</p> <p>Contact Fire Brigade – HAZMAT on 000 and follow directions.</p> <p>Notify the Chief Warden or Security or an Emergency Warden. The Chief Warden may use the PA system or fire alarm if a building evacuation is required.</p> <p>The Chief Warden (or Security) should meet the Fire Brigade when they arrive.</p> <p>Ensure Safety Data Sheets and someone who is knowledgeable about the spilled material are available to provide information to the Fire Brigade.</p> <p>The area must not be re-entered until declared safe by the Fire Brigade.</p>
Minor Spills	<p>Do not clean up a hazardous chemical spill if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you do not know what it is, or • you lack the necessary equipment (refer to Safety Data Sheet), or • you are alone and the substance is volatile and fatal by inhalation, or • you are pregnant, or • you feel any symptoms of exposure <p><u>If you are confident that you can handle the spill:</u></p> <p>Prevent spills entering drains and neighbouring areas.</p> <p>Request assistance from a Research Coordinator or Spill Team for larger or toxic spills or if you are unsure.</p> <p>Allow 30 minutes for aerosols to settle or volatiles to disperse in a fume cupboard.</p> <p>Wear appropriate personal protective equipment including safety goggles, gloves and disposable impermeable lab gown. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet or ChemAlert.</p> <p>Confine the spill to a small area. Avoid creating aerosols or dust. Use absorbent material from the spill kit to absorb spilled materials. Place the saturated absorbent in a plastic bag. Label the bag and include in the next hazardous waste collection.</p> <p>Decontaminate in accordance with the Safety Data Sheet, Safe Work Procedure or supplier's information and finally clean the spill area with water.</p>
Report	<p><u>Immediately</u> notify your supervisor and the WHS Manager of a major spill as it will be notifiable to a regulatory authority. Submit an incident report within 24 hours.</p>