

Hazardous Material Spills/Releases

For the purpose of this protocol the following definitions are provided:

- ***Incidental Release:*** a small isolated chemical spill without the potential to cause significant injury/illness and/or environmental damage. It does not require evacuation other than from the immediate release area and can be contained and cleaned up by staff (Category I) or EH&S (Category II).
- ***Emergency Release:*** an incident that involves a large quantity of one or more chemicals that have the potential to cause significant personnel injury/illness and/or environmental damage.

Category I: An incidental release of a small quantity and/or low hazard chemical (according to NIOSH pocket guide and/or SDS) that may be cleaned up by lab personnel who are familiar with the material. A Category I Release is a chemical release in which:

- Material presents no significant threat of harm to personnel and/or environment.
- Lab personnel are familiar with the material.
- Lab is equipped with fully stocked spill kit.
- Lab personnel have the appropriate PPE available.
- Lab personnel have been instructed on proper spill cleanup (clean up procedures provided in a formal, documented setting either in the lab or work site or provided by EH&S).
- Ventilation is adequate.

Note: EH&S will respond to and evaluate the release if doubt exists about the severity of the incident.

Category II: An incidental release of a large quantity and/or high hazard chemical that EH&S staff can safely and effectively remediate. A Category II Release is a chemical release in which:

- Material presents a significant threat of harm to personnel and/or environment.
- Lab personnel are unfamiliar with the material.
- Lab is not equipped with necessary clean up tools (absorbent, neutralizer, etc.)
- Ventilation is inadequate.
- Material can be detected by available instrumentation and EH&S staff member has been fully trained in its use.
- EH&S staff members are trained on spill cleanup procedures and are currently certified with 40-hr HAZWOPER and/or other necessary instruction as defined by department.
- EH&S may recommend or execute the following:
 - Activate the fire alarm for immediate evacuation of the building.
 - Call 911 for public emergency response services.
 - Recommend that University Police notify neighboring buildings of chemical release.
 - Take other appropriate measures necessary to remediate the situation.

Note: EH&S will evaluate the release, provide advice and assistance in cleanup, and/or coordinate with other campus departments if necessary (when appropriate, staff members will don appropriate PPE).

Category III: An Emergency Release of a large quantity and/or high hazard chemical (according to NIOSH pocket guide and/or SDS) that EH&S staff cannot safely and effectively remediate.

An outside public agency such as Tampa Fire Rescue- Hazardous Materials Response Team will be contacted. A Category III Release is a chemical release in which:

- Remediation requires specialized equipment and/or instrumentation.
- EH&S staff member is unfamiliar with the material and/or is not trained in the clean-up procedure.
- EH&S staff does not have access to appropriate PPE and/or clean-up tools.
- Ventilation is inadequate.
- EH&S will execute the following:
 - Activation of the fire alarm for immediate evacuation of the building.
 - Call 911 for public emergency response services.
 - Recommend that University Police notify neighboring buildings of chemical release.
 - Take other appropriate measure necessary to remediate the situation.