

Definition – A chemical emergency is defined as a situation in which a chemical(s) and/or chemical reaction(s) is not properly contained and poses an immediate threat to the health and safety of persons in proximity to the chemical(s).

This information provides you with the first basic steps to be followed in the event of a chemical release.

General Information

Chemical spills should only be cleaned up by knowledgeable and experienced personnel.

A chemical emergency that causes any exposure and/or harm to a person or persons is considered an accident. As such, an Accident Report form must be filled out and submitted. In the event of a chemical release into the environment, the Chemical Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator [CEHSC] must be notified immediately in writing through conventional or electronic mail methods.

Cleaning Up Small Chemical Spills

If you are cleaning up a small spill yourself, make sure that you are aware of the hazards associated with the spilled materials, have adequate ventilation and proper personal protective equipment (minimum – gloves and safety glasses). Consider all residual chemical and cleanup materials (adsorbent, gloves, etc.) as hazardous waste. Place these materials in a sealed container and store in the chemical storage shed hood. Contact the Chemical Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator for disposal instructions.

Minor Chemical Spill

- Alert people in immediate area of spill to maintain safe distance.
- Increase ventilation in area of spill (open windows).
- Wear protective equipment, including safety goggles, gloves, and body protection.
- Avoid breathing vapors from spill.
- Use appropriate spill neutralizer or clean up kit (vermiculite, dry sand, diatomaceous earth or paper towels). Collect residue, place in container, and dispose as hazardous chemical waste.
- Clean spill area with water.



The University Of

T A M P A

Chemical Emergency Procedures General Response and Clean-Up

Effective August 2012

Major Chemical Spill IMMEDIATE CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

A. Evacuate the area and from a safe location call:

Security 813-251-5133 or xtn. 3333

Ask Security to contact Steve Kucera or Dave Ramsey

B. Provide the Security Guard with the following information:

1. State precisely the nature of the emergency.
2. Indicate what chemical is involved and the estimated quantity.
3. Give an exact location of the incident by campus building, floor, wing, etc.
4. Describe any known injuries to personnel.
5. Secure the area by alerting other employees to clear the area.

C. Possible Questions about the Spill:

- Is spilled material flammable and are there ignition or heat sources nearby?
- Are there doors that can be closed to affected area?
- Are there fumes, flames, or irritating odor that have been created by the emergency?

**DO NOT TRY TO CLEAN UP AN UNKNOWN
CHEMICAL SPILL OR MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILL.**