

# Spill procedures\*

## MINOR SPILLS OF LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

(1 millicurie (mCi) or less of I-131 & Y-90, Everything else 10 mCi or less)

1. NOTIFY ALL PERSONS in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. PREVENT THE SPREAD of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
3. REPORT the incident to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately at 464-6510, Vocera Radiation Safety, or page 315-441-0961. Radiation Safety will assist with spill cleanup.
4. CLEAN UP the spill using disposable gloves and absorbent paper. Carefully fold the absorbent paper with the clean side out and place in a plastic bag for transfer to a radioactive waste container. Also put contaminated gloves and any other contaminated disposables in the bag.
5. SURVEY the area with a low-range radiation survey meter. Check your hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination, and the area around the spill.
6. FOLLOW-UP on the cleanup of the spill will be done by the RSO, including contamination surveys and necessary paperwork. Survey any other people or items that may have become contaminated.

## MAJOR SPILLS OF LIQUIDS AND SOLIDS

(1 mCi or more of I-131 & Y-90, Everything else 10 mCi or more)

1. CLEAR THE AREA. Notify all persons not involved in the spill to vacate the room.
2. PREVENT THE SPREAD of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper, but do not attempt to clean it up. To prevent the spread of contamination, limit the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated.
3. REPORT the incident to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) immediately at 464-6510, Vocera Radiation Safety, or page 315-441-0961. Radiation Safety will assist with spill cleanup.
4. SHIELD THE SOURCE if possible. Avoid spreading contamination. Ensure that the act of placing the shielding does not cause excessive radiation exposure.
5. CLOSE THE ROOM and lock or otherwise secure the area to prevent entry.
6. DECONTAMINATE PERSONNEL by removing contaminated clothing and flushing contaminated skin with lukewarm water and then scrub with mild soap. If contamination remains, induce perspiration by covering the area with plastic. Then wash the affected area again to remove any contamination that was released by the perspiration.
7. CLEANUP: The RSO will supervise the cleanup of the spill and will complete the necessary paperwork and contamination surveys.

\*U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission,  
NUREG-1556 Vol.9 Rev.3, Appendix N  
General Safety Procedures to Handle Spill

**RSO:** Mary Richardson

**Office Phone:** (315) 464-6510

**Emergency Pager:** (315) 441-0961