

# DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

## Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are substances with dangerous ingredients - particularly chemicals that can hurt the environment, cause injury, or even death. When used with caution, they can be safely used in laboratory instruction, industry, agriculture, medicine, research, and ev TJ 0 -1.141 TD [(b)2(e cl)8.3(ean)2(e)11.3(d)]TJ 0 Tc 0 T

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Any spill that could **POTENTIALLY** cause injury to a person or property must be reported to Environmental Health and Safety. If an immediate hazard exists or medical assistance is required, **CALL 757-683-4000 (or 9-1-1 if off-campus)**. For small spills or that pose no immediate danger to life or property:

- Confine the spill.
- Evacuate and secure the immediate area; only allow authorized personnel to access the contaminated area. Notify area supervisor.

## **Toxic Fumes Release**

- Evacuate the area immediately if you smell gas or other toxic fumes, experience irritation, coughing, burning eyes, and/or difficulty breathing.
- If you smell gas in a dark room, **DO NOT** turn on lights; this action could ignite gas fumes. **DO NOT** touch, activate, or de-activate any power switches, fire alarms, lights, etc.
- Evacuate immediately and **CALL 757-683-4000 (or 9-1-1 if off-campus)**. **DO NOT** re-enter the area until advised to do so by emergency personnel.

## **Radioactive Leak or Spill**

In the event of a radioactive leak or spill:

- Limit the spread of the spill.
- Notify others in the area that a spill has occurred. Keep untrained people out of the area.
- Call the Radiation Safety Officer in Environmental Health and Safety at 757-683-5834.

If skin contamination has occurred:

- Go to the nearest sink and wash the affected area with tepid water.
- Call the Radiation Safety Officer in Environmental Health and Safety.

## **Biological Release or Spill**

In the event of a biological release or spill:

- Use personal protection and decontaminate the spill with appropriate disinfectant.
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