

APPENDIX Q-2

SPILL PROCEDURES

Prior to using radioactive material, the Applicant must develop, document, and implement written emergency procedures for the proper response to spills of radioactive material.

Section 9	Applicability
RH-8500	Y
RH-8530	Y
RH-8550	Y
RH-8600	Y
RH-8620	Y
RH-8630	
RH-8670	Y

The Emergency Procedures that licensees are required to develop, document, and implement must include provisions for responding to spills or other contamination events in order to prevent the spread of radioactive material. Spill procedures should address all types and forms of radioactive material used and should be posted in restricted areas where radioactive materials are used or stored. The instructions should specifically state the names and telephone numbers of persons to be notified (e.g., RSO, staff, state and local authorities, and the Department, when applicable). Additionally, the instructions should contain procedures for evacuation of the area, containment of spills and other releases, appropriate methods for reentering, and for decontaminating facilities when necessary.

Example Spill Procedures -- Low and High Dose Unsealed Sources

This example provides acceptable procedures for responding to events involving spilled radioactive material.

Minor Spills of Liquids and Solids

1. Notify persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. Prevent the spread of contamination by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
3. Wearing gloves and protective clothing such as a lab coat and booties, clean up the spill using absorbent paper. Carefully fold the absorbent paper with the clean side out and place in a "Caution Radioactive Material" labeled bag for transfer to a radioactive waste container. Also, put contaminated gloves and any other contaminated disposable material in the bag.
4. Survey the area with a low-range radiation detection survey instrument sufficiently sensitive to detect the radionuclide. Check for removable contamination to ensure contamination levels are below trigger levels. Check the area around the spill. Also, check hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination.
5. Report the incident to the RSO.

Major Spills of Liquids and Solids

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 “Caution Radioactive Material” labeled absorbent paper, but do not attempt to clean it up. To prevent the spread of contamination, clearly indicate the boundaries of the spill and limit the movement of all personnel who may be contaminated.
3. Shield the source if possible. Do this only if it can be done without further contamination or a significant increase in radiation exposure.
4. Close the room and lock or otherwise secure the area to prevent entry.
5. Notify the RSO immediately.
6. Decontaminate personnel by removing contaminated clothing and flushing contaminated skin with lukewarm water, then washing with mild soap. If contamination remains, the RSO may consider inducing perspiration. Then wash the affected area again to remove any contamination that was released by the perspiration.

The decision to implement a major spill procedure instead of a minor spill procedure depends on many incident-specific variables, such as the number of individuals affected, other hazards present, likelihood of contamination spread, types of surfaces contaminated and radiotoxicity of the spilled material. For some spills of radionuclides with half-lives shorter than 24 hours and in amounts less than five times the lowest ALI, an alternative spill procedure may be restricted access pending complete decay.

Guidance

Use Table Q-2.1 as general guidance to determine whether a major spill procedure or a minor spill procedure will be implemented.

Estimate the amount of radioactivity spilled. Initiate a major or minor spill procedure, based on the following information. Spills above these mCi amounts are considered major, and below these levels are considered minor.

Radionuclide	milliCurie	Radionuclide	milliCurie
P-32	1	Tc-99m	100
Cr-51	100	In-111	10
Co-57	10	I-123	10
Co-58	10	I-125	1
Fe-59	1	I-131	1
Co-60	1	Sm-153	10
Ga-67	10	Yb-169	10
Se-75	1	Hg-197	10
Sr-85	10	Au-198	10
Sr-89	1	Tl-201	100

Spill Kit

Assemble a spill kit that may contain the following items:

- Disposable gloves and housekeeping gloves;
- Disposable lab coats;
- Disposable head coverings;
- Disposable shoe covers;
- Roll of absorbent paper with plastic backing;
- Masking tape;
- Plastic trash bags with twist ties;
- Marking pen;
- Pre-strung “Radioactive Material” labeling tags;
- Contamination wipes;
- Instructions for “Emergency Procedures”;
- Clipboard with copy of Radioactive Spill Report Form;
- Pencil; and
- Appropriate survey instruments, including batteries.