

SPILLS, ACCIDENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

A. Spills

Occasionally, and in spite of our best efforts to prevent them, accidents will occur in the laboratory. The most frequent accident in the laboratory is generally a chemical spill. For this reason, Saint Louis University has a Hazmat Response Team that is on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This team is managed by OESS and can be reached by calling the Department of Public Safety at 977-3000. The following procedures should be followed in the event of a chemical spill in your laboratory:

- In the event of skin exposure to a chemical, flush the area with water for 15 minutes
- Evacuate the immediate and adjacent areas
- Notify your supervisor and/or other employees in the area
- Contact DPS at 977-3000
- Provide DPS with the chemical name, quantity spilled, exact location of the spill and a contact phone number.

Seek medical attention from the Saint Louis University Hospital emergency room or Employee Health physician, if necessary. All injuries/illnesses should be reported on the Injury/Illness Report Form.

B. Accidents

Accidents involving fire or explosions will activate installed automatic alarm sensors and fire extinguishing systems. Where automatic systems do not exist, manual alarms are installed in egress routes and must be activated during evacuation. Accidents involving hazardous chemical spills, fires, or explosions shall be immediately reported to Saint Louis University Department of Public Safety at 977-3000. Public Safety will contact the appropriate personnel. Reporting of accidents to DPS should be clear and concise, including the following information:

- Nature of the accident
- Hazardous material involved
- Nature of any injuries
- Location (Building and Room Number)
- Name of the caller
- Phone number where caller can be reached (outside of the danger area)

Personnel at the immediate scene of the accident should take actions that will mitigate the extent of the accident without jeopardizing their health and safety. When in doubt, warn others in the area, evacuate the area, travel to a safe location, and contact DPS.

C. Accident Investigation and Reporting

Accidents involving injury or illness must be reported on the Injury/Illness Report form (available from Human Resources) and distributed as indicated. All other accidents and near accidents (injuries, fires, spills, explosions) shall be reported in writing to OESS as soon as possible after the occurrence. OESS will analyze accidents and “near misses” and provide recommendations to proper authorities.

D. Emergency Response

The Emergency Response Guide provided by the Department of Public Safety is available from OESS and should be posted in each laboratory. This document identifies the following response procedures:

- Fire
- Earthquake
- Tornado
- Police Emergency
- Bomb Threat
- Chemical Spill
- Radioactive Spill
- Loss of Utilities
- Medical Emergency
- Explosion
- Workplace Violence