POLICY ON HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL

Purpose: To develop an emergency plan which covers contingencies that may arise from the use of hazardous chemicals or biological agents that are used in a given area according to Hospital Policy SA 20-10.02.

Policy: Plant Services personnel must be familiar with the hazards in their work area and the department's emergency plan. Foremen are directly responsible for the safety of those who work or enter their areas.

Special Instructions:
A. Spill Protocol

When accidents occur that could contaminate an area with dangerous chemicals or infectious agents, the following should be done:

1. Attend to anyone who may have been exposed to the hazard. First aid treatment may include:
   a. Limiting exposure route of the chemical or infectious agent. Exposed persons should leave to avoid breathing more fumes.
   b. Decontamination of exposed personnel. Flush exposed eyes or skin, and seek medical attention.

2. Restrict the contamination to the smallest area.

3. Notify everyone in the immediate area about the spill.

4. Restrict all nonessential personnel from the spill area.

5. If the spilled material is flammable, turn off all ignition and heat sources.

6. Avoid breathing the vapors of the spilled material. If necessary, use a respirator.
7. Leave on or establish exhaust ventilation as appropriate is safe to do so.

8. Secure supplies to affect a safe clean up.

9. Clean up should only be performed by (1) staff trained in the proper clean up techniques and (2) staff trained in the use of the appropriate personal protective equipment.

10. Vanderbilt Environmental Health & Safety (322-2057) should be contacted for clean up of any spill involving radioactive materials.

11. Environmental Services cannot be expected to clean up toxic spills unless proper supervision is given.

12. Notify the Vanderbilt Environmental Health & Safety at Ext. 322-2057 for disposal of the contaminated clean up material.


B. Spill Clean Up Kits

Spill kits are important to any contingency plan. A spill kit should be prepared to meet the accident involving the hazardous chemicals and infectious agents found in the department's area. They should contain supplies not only for clean up, but also personal protective gear appropriate for the hazards present.

The following is a list of contents of a general chemical spill kit.

1. Acid neutralizer and sorbent.

2. Organic solvent sorbent (one that does not increase the rate of evaporation).
3. A pickup bottle for the safe clean up of small mercury spills (thermometers, manometers, etc.).

4. Acid and solvent resistant dust pan and squeegee.

5. Several 4 mil plastic bags.

A spill kit for infectious agents should contain a disinfectant appropriate for the particular hazardous biological agent being used or studied.

For specific spill kit needs, contact the Vanderbilt Environmental Health & Safety.

References: None