

### **General Guideline for Cleaning Up Spills**

Immediately alert others in the area and the supervisor, and evacuate the area, if necessary.

If there is a fire or medical attention is needed, contact the appropriate Emergency (911) Personnel.

If a volatile, flammable material is spilled, immediately warn others in the area, control sources of ignition, and ventilate the area.

Wear personal protective equipment, as appropriate to the hazards. Refer to the Facility Response Plan, the Safety Data Sheet or other references available for information.

If the spill is a MAJOR one, if there has been a release to the environment, or if assistance is needed, contact the appropriate Emergency (911) Personnel and Environmental (961-3776/5356) Personnel immediately.

Protect floor drains or other means for environmental release. Spill socks and absorbents may be placed around drains, as needed.

Loose spill control materials should be distributed over the entire spill area, working from the outside, circling to the center. This reduces the chance of splash or spreading of the spilled chemical.

Bulk absorbents and many spill pillows do not work on hydrofluoric acid.

POLYZORB® products and their equivalent will handle hydrofluoric acid. Many neutralizers for acids and bases have a color change indicator to show when neutralization is complete.

Several materials for cleaning up mercury spills are available in chemical catalogs, safety supply catalogs and at some of the science and engineering stockrooms. Broken thermometers, gauges or other mercury-containing materials, may be placed in a plastic bag or glass or metal container, and sealed.

When the spilled materials have been absorbed, use a brush and scoop (spark-resistant if flammable materials are involved) to place materials in an appropriate container. Polyethylene bags may be used for small spills. Five gallon pails or 20 gallon drums with polyethylene liners may be appropriate for larger spills.

Complete a hazardous waste tag, identifying the material as Spill Debris involving XYZ Chemical, and affix the sticker to the container or bag. Remember the use of an absorbent does not alter the chemical properties of the chemical. Contact the Hazardous Waste Manager (961-3760) for advice on storage and packaging for disposal.

Report all spills to your supervisor and the Environmental Department.

Replenish spill control materials as needed.