

# lechyd a Diogelwch – Health and Safety

## CHEMICAL SAFETY – EMERGENCY SPILL PROCEDURES

This Information Sheet provides guidance on how chemicals should be stored in order to protect both people and the environment. It should be read in conjunction with other supporting Information Sheets eg 'Identifying Chemical Hazards' and 'Disposing of Chemical Wastes'.

Spilt chemicals are one of the greatest risks in a laboratory environment or chemical store because the normal control measures are no longer operating. As a consequence both people and the environment are at risk.

You may think you are doing the right thing by clearing a chemical spill up immediately **BUT REMEMBER:**



- **YOURS AND OTHER PEOPLE'S SAFETY COMES FIRST!**
- **IF IN DOUBT** raise the alarm and evacuate.
- Inform the Laboratory Supervisor immediately. If they are unavailable call University Security on **2795 / 333 (01248 382795)** immediately.



- If you are contaminated remove contaminated clothing and use emergency shower if necessary.
- Seek First Aid assistance. If none is available locally contact University Security.

### To 'Clean Up' or 'Not to Clean Up'?

Before attempting to clean up spilt chemicals ask yourself:

- **Are you confident you know what you are doing or should you seek advice?**
- **Do you understand the hazards associated with the chemical?**
- **Are you certain that no additional hazards have been created because of the spill eg reaction with other chemicals producing toxic gases etc?**
- **Do you know how to protect yourself against all the hazards?**
- **Is the correct PPE and a suitable clean up kit available?**
- **Do you need help to clean up?**

## CLEANING UP SPILLS SAFELY

### NEVER

- Attempt to neutralise concentrated acids or alkalis chemically.
- Switch off fume hoods.
- Switch on or off any electrical equipment if the spill involves flammable liquids.

### ALWAYS:

1. Make sure you are wearing appropriate PPE. If none is available don't clean up.
2. Protect drains using absorbent booms or materials where possible eg:



3. Control the spread of the spill by using spillage absorbent granules or other absorbent materials or booms.



4. Deactivate the hazardous material by absorbing or neutralising appropriately. Leave absorbent material in place for at least 20 minutes.



Wait at least **20** minutes



5. Clean up the deactivated chemicals into suitable containers which are usually provided with the spill kit. Ensure the container is properly labelled, indicating the name of the chemical and any hazards.
6. Clean the area down with water and detergent. Remember to dry the floor and / or place a warning notice.
7. Dispose of all the contaminated material including the PPE as hazardous waste.