

RADIOLOGICAL SPILL

When an incident occurs, the worker must first make a judgment as to whether the incident is a minor or major incident. The chart below will help you to make the determination as to a minor or major incident. When in doubt, call REHS.

Notifications

The proper response to an emergency depends upon a thorough understanding of the magnitude of risks, priorities for action and the application of common sense. When calling REHS or the police to report a spill, the following information should be provided:

- Location of incident
- Authoree
- Name and telephone number of person reporting
- Persons contaminated or exposed, estimate of amount on skin
- Radionuclide involved
- Amount of radioactivity
- Volume of released material
- What steps have been taken so far?

In the event of a spill or emergency related to a radiological laboratory incident during normal business hours (Mon - Fri 8 am to 4:30 pm), REHS should be contacted at 848-445-2550. After business hours, call RUPD (New Brunswick 732-932-7111, Newark 973-353-5111 or 973-972-4491, Camden 856-225-6111):

Emergency Procedures for Radiation Incidents

Minor Incident:

- < 100 uCi of Radioactive Material (RAM)
- No personal contamination
- Localized contamination
- No spread of RAM outside licensed areas
- Proper tools and knowledge available for clean up

Laboratory Guidelines:

- Stop source of the spill
- Warn other personnel
- Survey and mark the affected areas
- Minimize exposures
- Notify Authoree or designee
- Begin cleanup
- If area cannot be cleaned, notify REHS at 848-445-2550
- Document incident in laboratory survey book

Major Incident:

(Any of the following conditions)

- > 100 uCi of Radioactive Material (RAM)
- Skin and/or clothing contamination is involved (any quantity)
- Airborne RAM is thought to be present
- Large areas are contaminated
- Contamination has spread outside licensed areas
- Personal injury or fire
- * Anytime you are unsure of what to do, or how to do it

Laboratory Guidelines:

- Treat life threatening injuries first
- Evacuate and lock (or post) laboratory if airborne or fire hazard exists
- Perform first aid, if applicable
- Remove contaminated clothing
- Measure and record amount of contamination on skin with applicable meter and wash area gently with warm water and soap
- Warn other personnel
- Notify REHS at 848-445-2550 or REHS-Newark at 973-972-5305 and Authoree
- If after hours, call RUPD
- Try to prevent the spread of contamination, if possible
- Await the arrival of REHS