



Emergency Preparedness

80 Fort Brown ♦ Brownsville, Texas 78520

Campus Police: 882-2222 ♦ Env. Health & Safety: 882-5930 ♦ Physical Plant: 882-5900

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College

CHEMICAL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Initial Actions

Determine what type of chemical spill has occurred and what the degree of emergency is. In all cases, immediately call the **Chemical Hygiene Safety Officer at 882-5840**, **Environmental Health and Safety at 882-5930**, or **Campus Police at 882-2222**. Provide your name, location (room and building), phone number you are using, and a description of the nature of the emergency.

Small Non-Flammable and Non-Hazardous Spills

For spills of non-flammable and non-hazardous chemicals, lab assistants and instructors should:

- ▶ Move students out of the affected area.
- ▶ Notify the Chemical Hygiene Safety Officer.
- ▶ Contain the spill with an absorbent material from the spill kit.
- ▶ If the chemical is corrosive, neutralize it with an appropriate agent.
- ▶ Soak up the material with an absorbent from the lab spill station.
- ▶ Place the contaminated materials in an appropriate disposal bag.
- ▶ Wash the area with water.
- ▶ Fill out a spill report.



Flammable and Hazardous Spills

For flammable spills, lab assistants or instructors should:

- ▶ Move students out of the affected area.
- ▶ Evacuate the surrounding areas if there is a low flash point or if more than 8 liters of chemicals have spilled.
- ▶ Notify the Chemical Hygiene Safety Officer, EH&S, or Campus Police.
- ▶ Contain the spill with an absorbent material from the spill kit.
- ▶ Turn off ignition sources.
- ▶ Open hood sash doors.
- ▶ Leave the room.
- ▶ If more than 5 gallons of chemical are spilled and the chemical has a low flash point (e.g., alcohol), notify Campus Police, advise students to evacuate the building and call the Brownsville Fire Department.
- ▶ Do not re-enter the affected area until EH&S is on-site and has granted permission for re-entry.
- ▶ Fill out a spill report.

For spills of hazardous chemicals (i.e., cyanide or sulfide solution), lab assistants or instructors should:

- ▶ Move students out of the affected area.
- ▶ Evacuate the surrounding areas.
- ▶ Notify the Chemical Hygiene Safety Officer, EH&S, and Campus Police.
- ▶ Open hood sashes if possible, and ensure that all doors to the affected area are closed.
- ▶ Contain the spill with an absorbent material from the spill kit.
- ▶ Leave the room.
- ▶ Do not re-enter the affected area until EH&S is on-site and has granted permission for re-entry.
- ▶ Fill out a spill report.