



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

RADIATION EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Initial Actions

Do not attempt to clean up the spill. Move to a safe area and immediately call the Radiation Safety Officer at 882-5013, 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.



Minor Radioactive Spills

Minor spills can generally be considered as those that contaminate small areas of laboratory surfaces or equipment, but do not result in excessive external exposure to personnel, or external or internal contamination of personnel.

In the case of a minor spill:

- ▶ Notify all persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
- ▶ Cover the spill with an absorbent paper or pad.
- ▶ Using disposable gloves and remote handling tongs, carefully fold the absorbent paper or pad and insert it in a plastic bag.
- ▶ Place all other materials that have been contaminated (e.g., disposable gloves) in another plastic bag.
- ▶ Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) and Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S). The RSO and EH&S will arrange for disposal of the contaminated articles. The RSO and EH&S will also conduct monitoring for contamination of the spill area, your person, and clothing. Decontamination will occur as necessary.

Major Radioactive Spills

Major spills can generally be considered as those that cause any of the following:

- ▶ Contamination of large surface areas.
- ▶ External contamination of personnel.
- ▶ Substantive external exposure to personnel.
- ▶ Internal contamination of personnel.

In the case of a major spill:

- ▶ Have all persons not involved in the spill leave the room.
- ▶ Cover the spill with an absorbent paper or pad. Do not attempt to clean up the spill.
- ▶ Prevent potentially contaminated personnel from leaving the room.
- ▶ Prevent personnel from entering the area.
- ▶ Shield the area if this can be done without further contamination or without increasing your radiation exposure.
- ▶ Notify RSO and EH&S. The RSO and EH&S will conduct sampling to determine the level of decontamination necessary.