

Spills: Initial Spill Response Procedure

Department: Environmental Protection

Program: Spills

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Authority: ES&H Manual, Chapter 16, Spills

Legend

MSDS = material safety data sheet

Responder = person witnessing and first responding to spill

RP = Radiation Protection Department

WM = Waste Management Group

Initial Response

The first person (“responder”) noticing a spill must take the following actions immediately (see Spills: Spill Response Flow Chart):¹

Step	Person	Action
1.	Responder	Ensures own safety. At all times minimizes exposure to chemical or radioactive contamination
2.	Responder	Assesses the spill by determining <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has anyone been seriously injured or is there a danger to anyone• What has been spilled• How much• What are the safety and environmental hazards (check MSDS, if readily available)
3.	Responder	Has anyone been seriously injured or is there danger to anyone? If yes, or unsure, this is an emergency life-threatening spill. Clears the area to a safe location and calls 911 (9-911 from a SLAC phone) Begins Spills: Life-threatening Emergency Spill Response Procedure ²
4.	Responder	Is there a risk of exposure to human health that is not life threatening or an uncontrollable, imminent threat to the environment (for example, spill has migrated to storm drain)? If yes, or unsure, this is a non-life threatening emergency spill. Clears the area to a safe location and calls WM (Ext. 2399) or

1 Spills: Spill Response Flow Chart (SLAC-I-750-0A16S-004), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/spillsFlowResponse.pdf>

2 Spills: Life-threatening Emergency Spill Response Procedure (SLAC-I-750-0A16C-003), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/spillsProcedEmergencyLT.pdf>

Spills: Initial Spill Response Procedure

Step	Person	Action
		Safeguards and Security (Ext. 2551). Begins Spills: Non-life-threatening Emergency Spill Response Procedure ³
5.	Responder	If there is no risk of exposure to human health or imminent threat to the environment, it is a non-emergency spill. Begins Spills: Non-emergency Spill Response Procedure ⁴
6.	Responder	If the spilled material is or is suspected to be radioactive, begins Spills: Radioactive Spill Response Procedure ⁵

3 Spills: Non-life-threatening Emergency Spill Response Procedure (SLAC-I-750-0A16C-004), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/spillsProcedEmergencyNLT.pdf>

4 Spills: Non-emergency Spill Response Procedure (SLAC-I-750-0A16C-002), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/spillsProcedNonemergency.pdf>

5 Spills: Radioactive Spill Response Procedure (SLAC-I-750-0A16C-005), <http://www-group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/eshmanual/references/spillsProcedRad.pdf>