
BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
Chemical Spills/Hazardous Materials Accident Protocol

I. Introduction

A chemical spill or hazardous material incident can occur in even the safest environment and result in a major emergency. Incidents may result from equipment failure, human error, failure to follow established procedures, natural disaster, or sabotage.

II. Protocol

Spills of a hazardous chemical or radioactive material need to be reported immediately to the BSU Police Department. When reporting, be specific about the kind of material involved and exact location of the spill. The police will contact the necessary specialized authorities and medical personnel.

Anyone who may have been contaminated by a spill should avoid contact with others as much as possible, and remain in the vicinity. Emergency personnel will provide required first aid and cleanup, such as removing contaminated clothing, and flushing with water. Small spills are best handled by the person(s) using the material because he/she is probably familiar with the hazardous material.

The key person on site should vacate the affected area at once, and seal it off to prevent further contamination of other areas until the arrival of emergency personnel.

In the event of a chemical spill or hazardous materials accident:

- Do not attempt to clean up the material yourself.
- Alert others and quickly exit the building.
- Assist disabled persons in exiting the building.
- Once outside, move to a clear area away from the affected building(s).
- Keep streets, fire lanes, hydrants and walkways clear for emergency vehicles and crews.
- Return to the building only when authorities say it is safe.
- Clean up and dispose of residue carefully. Follow instructions from emergency officials concerning clean-up methods.

REVISED 10/12