

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL SPILLS

Minor Spills (<1mCi unbound I-125, <10mCi bound I-125, <10mCi Low Energy Beta)

1. **Notify:** Notify persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. **Prevent the Spread:** If unbound Iodine, add Alkaline Sodium Thiosulfate solution. Cover the spill with absorbent paper or matting.
3. **Clean Up:** Use disposable gloves and if necessary, remote handling tongs. Carefully fold the absorbent or matting, insert into a plastic bag and dispose of in the radioactive waste container. Also insert all other contaminated materials, such as disposable gloves, into the plastic bag.
4. **Survey:** Survey the spill area, hands and clothing for contamination. Depending on isotope, use either a Low Energy gamma detector or perform a wipe test.
5. **Report:** Report incident to the Radiation Safety Officer (662-915-5433).

Major Spills (>Minor Spill limits, personnel contaminated or unable to clean up spill)

1. **Clear the Area:** Notify all persons not involved in the spill to vacate the room.
2. **Prevent the Spread:** If unbound Iodine, add Alkaline Sodium Thiosulfate solution. Cover the spill with an absorbent, but do not attempt to clean it up. Confine the movement of all personnel potentially contaminated to prevent the spread.
3. **Shield the Source:** If the isotope is a gamma emitter, the spill should be shielded, but only if it can be done without further contamination or without significantly increasing your radiation exposure.
4. **Close the Room:** Leave the room and lock the door(s) to prevent entry.
5. **Call for Help:** Notify the Radiation Safety Office (662-915-5433) **immediately**.
6. **Personnel Decontamination:** Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by the Radiation Safety Officer. If the spill is on the skin, flush thoroughly and then wash with mild soap and lukewarm water.

To contact the Radiation Safety Officer, please use the following numbers:

Radiation Safety Officer: Obed Brempong **Office:** 662-915-5433 (24/7)

Alternate Names and Telephone Numbers Designated by RSO:

Shane Kesler **Office:** 662-915-5433 (24/7)
