HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (HAZMAT) INCIDENT - ON CAMPUS

A release of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) could involve chemical, biological, or radioactive materials. The ability to respond to a hazardous materials release will depend on many factors, these include the amount of material spilled or involved in an incident, the physical, biological and chemical characteristics of the material, the material’s health and hazard characteristics, the location of the spill, the level of response training obtained, and the types of personal protective and spill response equipment available.

If a HAZMAT release occurs on campus that cannot be handled safely by a TRAINED employee, then:

1. Alert people in the immediate area of the spill, evacuate the area, and call CWRU Police at (216) 368-3333.
2. If an explosion hazard is present, take care not to create sparks by turning on or off electrical equipment. Activate the emergency electrical shutoff if a laboratory is equipped with one.
3. Confine the hazard by closing doors as you leave the area. DO NOT put yourself at risk by rescuing or providing aid to contaminated persons unless you are properly protected.
4. If you are contaminated every attempt should be made to avoid cross contamination of others. Use eyewash or safety showers as needed to rinse contamination off yourself. If you are not contaminated, you can direct others on how to de-contaminate from a safe distance. After you decontaminate isolate yourself in a safe location. Do not assume it is safe to come into contact with others even if you have had emergency decontamination.
5. Evacuate any nearby rooms that may be affected. If the hazard will affect the entire building do not delay evacuating the entire building. If there is a chance of explosion from the hazardous material release do not activate the building fire alarm. Evacuate the building manually by alerting others by voice. Take care not to turn electrical equipment on or off or otherwise cause sparks. If there is no chance of explosion, activate the building fire alarm system by pulling the handle on a manual pull station. Follow the buildings evacuation procedures.
6. The Facility Emergency Liaison or Building Evacuation Leader must call (216) 368-3333 to verify the fire alarm/evacuation signal has been received. Be prepared to provide as much information as possible on the hazardous materials released. At the designated evacuation point, notify emergency responders of the location, nature and size of the spill. Isolate contaminated persons. Avoid cross-contamination or chemical exposure from contaminated persons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

1. The University will send representatives from the Department of Occupational and Environmental Safety (DOES) along with Police and Security officers. Additional emergency responders may respond from the affected jurisdiction. Rescue, evacuation, investigation, containment and clean up will be conducted as directed by the Police OIC, DOES representative or state/local agency Incident Commander.

ALL SPILLS/RELEASES MUST BE REPORTED even if they are isolated and cleaned immediately!