

Chemical Spill Cleanup

- For spills greater than 1 L, especially flammable solvents, highly toxic or corrosive materials, call the SPH emergency number (7111), which is posted on every phone for instructions (announce “Code Brown”).
- Notify all the people working in the area of the spill.
- Before attempting to clean up any spill, make sure you are trained.
- Are you familiar with the hazards associated with the spilt chemical? Read the MSDS!
- Wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Flammable Solvents

DO NOT attempt to clean up a solvent spill if there are ignition sources present!!!

- 1) Apply Spill-X-S or equivalent absorbent material, from the perimeter of the spill inward to cover the entire area of the spill.
- 2) Mix thoroughly with plastic scoops until the material is dry and no evidence of free liquid is present.
- 3) Transfer the absorbed solvent to an appropriate disposal container that is not soluble in the solvent and seal and label it.
- 4) Contact the Safety Coordinator at local 64005 for directions concerning the disposal of the container and its contents.

Acids (except perchloric acid) and Bases (Caustics)

- 1) Apply the appropriate neutralizer (Spill-X-A for acids, Spill-X-C for caustics or equivalent neutralizer) from the perimeter of the spill inward to cover the entire area of the spill.
- 2) Carefully mix with brushes and scoops. Add more neutralizer if there is still free acid present.
- 3) When foaming subsides, check the pH of the mixture by adding about 5 mL of the material to about 100 mL of water and then test the pH with pH paper.
- 4) If the pH is not 3-10, add more neutralizer and repeat steps 2 & 3.
- 5) Once the material is sufficiently neutralized, place the treated material into a disposable container and seal and label it.
- 6) Clean the spill area with soapy water and wet sponges.
- 7) Contact the Safety Coordinator at local 68684 for directions concerning the disposal of the container and its contents.

Perchloric Acid

- 1) Apply Spill-X-A or equivalent acid neutralizer from the perimeter of the spill inward to cover the entire area of the spill.
- 2) Wipe up the spill with wet paper towels. **The paper towels must be kept wet to prevent combustion upon drying.**
- 3) Place the wet paper towel into a plastic bag and seal and label it. Place the bag into a flammable waste disposal can (non-metal).
- 4) Contact the Safety Coordinator at local 68684 for directions concerning the disposal of the container and its contents.