

# Emergency Response

## If you work with chemicals or biologicals:

- Be prepared to handle spills and releases
- Know the potential hazards in your work area,
- Know what can happen if a chemical or biological is released,
- Use proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Use techniques to avoid exposure



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## RECOMMENDED SPILL KIT

Commercial spill kits are available, but a basic spill kit for most spills up to 500 ml can be put together easily using items listed below.

- Five (5) gallon bucket(s) with lid(s) – to store the kit
- 2 pairs of chemical splash goggles
- 2 pairs of gloves (nitrile)
- 2 pairs of shoe covers
- 2 disposable lab coats
- Absorbent material to contain the spill (paper towel, spill booms or pillows, vermiculite)
- Forceps/tongs to pick up contaminated debris or broken glass.
- Zipper seal type bags (1 gallon size)
- Small bottle of detergent cleaning solution
- Disinfectant
- Hazardous waste sticker
- Biohazard sticker
- Waste disposal bags

# Emergency Response

## HOW TO PACK A SPILL KIT

Spill kits should be packaged in the order of when materials will be needed:

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1. PPE should be stored on the top so that it is easily accessible and serves a reminder to don the PPE *prior to the cleanup*.
2. Absorbents and other equipment needed should be under the PPE.
3. Plastic bags to contain the spill debris should be next.
4. The pan and broom should be located at the bottom of the kit.
5. Biowaste and hazardous waste labels



**HAZARDOUS WASTE**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham | Start Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupational Health & Safety 4-2487 | Full Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chemical Name	%

Circle Primary Hazard  
Flammable Reactive Corrosive Toxic Oxidizer



# Emergency Response

## MAJOR SPILL:

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- Involves the release of a highly toxic chemical
- Involves fire or explosion.
- Involves more than 1000ml

## Take Action!

- **Call:**
  - **205-917-4766 (EH&S On Call)**
  - **Call 911 form Campus phone**
  - **205-934-3535 from a cell phone OR**
- Tell the person who answers the phone:
  - The location – types of hazardous materials involved,
  - Your name, and a phone number.

## Personal Injury or Chemical Contamination

- Move the victim to safety (only if safe to do).
- Locate nearest emergency eyewash/safety shower if contaminated.
- Remove any contaminated clothing.
- Flush the area for 15 minutes
- Get medical help if needed



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## MINOR SPILL

Alert people in the immediate area and restrict access.

- Locate the correct spill kit.
- Don the appropriate PPE – consult the SDS for special precautions
  - Clean, buttoned, long sleeve lab coat
  - Nitrile gloves if appropriate
  - Safety goggles or a full-face shield

## Chemical Spills

- Liquids:
  - Cover with the appropriate materials (vermiculate, absorbent pads, etc.) to absorb the liquid.
  - Dispose of as chemical waste.
- Powders:
  - Carefully sweep into a dustpan.
  - Avoid generating respirable dust.
  - Dispose of as chemical waste.



## Biological spills –

- Carefully pour disinfectant around edges of spill then into spill without splashing.
- Let sit 20 minutes.
- Absorb spill, then clean spill area with towels soaked with disinfectant.
- Place all contaminated material in plastic bag, autoclave, and dispose as medical waste.