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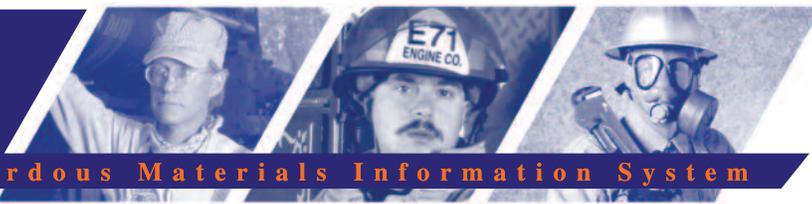
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WHMIS

Quick Facts

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System



Spill or Leak – Emergency Preparedness

There is **ALWAYS** a chance that a spill or leak can happen when chemicals are used in the workplace. The **Accidental Release Measures** section of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provides general guidance on the actions to take in case of a spill or leak. The employer is responsible to develop procedures that are appropriate for the workplace and conditions of use of a product. The recommended approach is to develop procedures for **Prevention, Preparedness and Response**.

Prevention is Best

- EVALUATE ways to minimize potential spills in the storage area, when transported in the workplace, during transfers to other containers, and during use.
- PROTECT containers and pipes from damage.
- INSPECT containers and pipes regularly for leaks, corrosion or signs of degradation.
- USE spill trays and secondary containment where leaks may occur.
- BE AWARE of any instability or incompatibility which may lead a container to break or overflow.
- USE only as much of the material as you need at a time.
- USE pumps or other mechanical devices instead of pouring directly into a container.
- BOND and GROUND containers of flammable liquids.
- CLOSE containers after using them.
- DISPOSE of chemicals if no longer needed.
- MAINTAIN good housekeeping and minimize clutter.

Preparedness

- Be prepared and have appropriate spill equipment and procedures in place.
- EVALUATE the hazards (e.g. fire, health, reactivity) of the materials you work with and be PREPARED to properly and safely clean up a small spill or leak.
- ENSURE appropriate spill kits, tools and personal protective equipment are readily available.
- ENSURE that engineering controls are adequate and are working properly.
- POST emergency response contact numbers and information in a visible location.
- PRACTICE your spill response plan.

Response – When a Spill or Leak Occurs ...

- KNOW when to initiate the emergency response plan.
- IF YOU CANNOT RESPOND SAFELY, then evacuate the area and restrict access.
- CONTACT the organization's spill response team or emergency services.

Good Practices

- Respond to the spill based on the hazards of the material and the workplace conditions.
- WEAR adequate protective equipment for the hazards present.
- USE appropriate tools and equipment for the spilled material (e.g. corrosion-resistant).
- REMOVE or EXTINGUISH ignition sources.
- STOP or REDUCE leak if safe to do so.
- DO NOT touch spilled material.
- PREVENT material from entering sewers, drains or confined spaces.
- INCREASE ventilation to spill area.
- PREVENT the spread of dusts and vapours to other areas.
- USE a dust suppressant for very dusty materials if feasible.
- CONTAIN spill with earth, sand or absorbent material that does not react with spilled material.
- SOAK up spilled liquid with absorbent that does not react with spilled chemical.
- SCOOP/SHOVEL spilled material into suitable, covered, labeled containers.
- FLUSH spill area with water if safe and contain runoff for disposal.
- HANDLE contaminated absorbent material as if it has the same hazards as the spilled product.
- DISPOSE of waste material in an acceptable manner, in accordance with applicable legislation.
- ENSURE that clothing, equipment and tools are properly decontaminated after the spill has been cleaned up.
- REVIEW how the spill/leak occurred and PLAN how to prevent it from happening again.

Plan and prepare for emergencies...
Ensure everyone has been trained on how to respond in the event of a spill or leak.

For additional information and resources, visit www.whmis.gc.ca and/or www.ccohs.ca

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