

# Exposure Response

Chemical, Biological, Radiological Exposures

## FOR LIFE THREATENING EMERGENCIES CALL: 911 or 360-650-3911

### 1. FIRST AID

<b>Sharps injury, puncture wound, animal bite, etc.</b>	Wash affected area with soap and warm water for 15 minutes.
<b>Eye exposure</b>	Flush using an emergency eyewash station holding eyes open for 15 minutes.
<b>Skin exposure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <b>Chemical:</b> Wash affected area with tepid water for 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing. Use emergency drench shower for large exposures.</li><li>◦ <b>Radioactive:</b> Survey affected skin using a count rate meter. Wash until count rate cannot be further reduced. Stop washing if skin becomes irritated.</li><li>◦ <b>Biological:</b> Wash affected area with soap and warm water for 15 minutes.</li><li>◦ <b>Burns:</b> For minor burns, hold under cool running water, apply burn pad and bandage. For major burns, remove restrictive items, cover with cool, wet cloth, elevate burned area.</li></ul>
<b>Inhalation, Ingestion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Move out of contaminated area and seek fresh air.</li><li>◦ Do not induce vomiting unless instructed to do so.</li><li>◦ <b>Radioactive:</b> Blow nose into tissue. Survey tissue for contamination.</li></ul>

### 2. MEDICAL HELP

<b>Radiological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Call 911. Provide the radionuclide, estimated amount and time since exposure.</li></ul>
<b>Chemical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Call 911. Provide the chemical name, concentration, amount exposed, time since exposure, and Safety Data Sheet (SDS).</li></ul>
<b>Biological</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Call EHS at 360-650-3064.</li><li>◦ If office is closed, call 911. Provide the biologic agent(s) involved and quantity if known.</li></ul>
<b>Major Burns</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Call 911.</li></ul>

### 3. REPORT THE INCIDENT

<b>Hospitalization, fatality, or synthetic or recombinant nucleic acid exposure</b>	Notify EHS immediately after first aid and medical help. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Call EHS at 360-650-3064.</li><li>◦ If EHS office closed, call University PD at 360-650-3911.</li></ul>
<b>All other incidents, near misses, and hazards</b>	Submit an Accidental Injury form or Hazard Report form within 24 hours. <a href="https://ehs.wvu.edu/accident-hazard-reporting">https://ehs.wvu.edu/accident-hazard-reporting</a>



# Spill Response



**FOR MAJOR SPILLS, EVACUATE.  
THEN CALL:  
911 or 360-650-3911**

**IF EXPOSED TO SPILL, FOLLOW EXPOSURE RESPONSE POSTER.**

## CHEMICAL SPILLS

**Large spills that pose a threat to health and safety OR you are uncomfortable handling:**

1. Notify everyone in the immediate vicinity of the spill.
2. Confine the spill **only** if safe to do so.
  - Prevent the spill from entering drains.
  - Turn off ignition sources.
  - Leave fume hoods on and open.
  - Close doors and windows.
3. Evacuate room, floor, or building as necessary. Pull the nearest fire alarm if warranted.
4. Call emergency services. Have someone else call EHS at 360-650-3064 if available.
5. Stay on scene to meet and inform emergency responders.

**Small spills that you can contain AND are comfortable handling:**

1. Notify everyone in the immediate vicinity of the spill.
2. Confine the spill.
  - Prevent the spill from entering drains.
  - Turn off ignition sources.
  - Leave fume hoods on and open.
3. Obtain suitable personal protective equipment (PPE).
4. Use the appropriate chemical spill kit to absorb the spill. Place all contaminated materials into the spill kit bag, affix a hazardous waste label, and schedule for pickup.
5. Call EHS at 360-650-3064 for spill assistance during business hours.

## BIOLOGICAL SPILLS

1. Notify those around you of the spill. Close off the area for 10 minutes to allow aerosols to settle.
2. Obtain suitable PPE.
3. Lay paper towels over top of the spill.
4. Pour a fresh 1:10 bleach and water solution (or other suitable disinfectant) onto the paper towels. Allow to soak for sufficient contact time (10 minutes for the bleach solution). Wipe up and dispose of as biohazardous waste.
5. Reapply disinfectant once more. Wipe up. Then do a final clean with a non-corrosive cleaner.
  - \* If spill involved recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids, call EHS as soon as possible 360-650-3064.

## RADIOLOGICAL SPILLS

1. Notify those around you of the spill.
2. When cleaning the spill, minimize exposure as much as possible by:
  - Limiting Time.
  - Increasing Distance.
  - Using Shielding.
3. Call EHS at 360-650-3064 during business hours or 360-650-3911 after hours.

**Report all spills within 24 hours.** <https://ehs.wvu.edu/accident-hazard-reporting>

