RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
SPILL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
RESEARCH USE AREAS

I. MINOR SPILLS: Less than 100 microcurie of activity *and/or* 5 mR/hr at 1 foot

a.	NOTIFY	Notify individuals in the area that a radioactive spill has occurred.
b.	PREVENT THE SPREAD	Cover the spill with absorbent paper.
c.	CALL FOR HELP	Report incident to the Office of Radiation Safety at the number below. If possible, have someone not involved in the spill make the report.
d.	CLEAN UP	Use disposable gloves (and long handling tools for high energy betas and gammas). Do not spread contamination – use absorbent paper and carefully wipe spill from outside to inside. Insert into a plastic bag and dispose all waste in a radioactive waste container. Include all other contaminated materials such as disposable gloves.
e.	SURVEY	With a survey meter, check the area around the spill, your hands, and clothes for contamination. A swipe survey shall be performed to demonstrate that decontamination results are below the UF limit of 100 dpm/100 cm^2 for gamma/beta or 50 dpm/100 cm^2 for alpha.

II. MAJOR SPILLS: More than 100 microcurie of activity *or* 5 mR/hr at 1 foot or personal contamination

a.	CLEAR THE AREA	Notify all individuals not involved in the spill to vacate the room. These people shall remain near the room to be checked for contamination.
b.	PREVENT THE SPREAD	Cover the spill with absorbent material, but do not attempt to clean it up. Confine the movement of all potentially contaminated personnel to prevent the spread.
c.	CALL FOR HELP	Report incident to the Office of Radiation Safety as soon as possible. If possible, have someone not involved in the spill make the report.
d.	SHIELD THE SOURCE	Shield the spill, if possible, but only if it can be done without further contamination or without significantly increasing your radiation exposure.
e.	PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION	Contaminated clothing should be removed and then stored for evaluation by the Office of Radiation Safety. If the spill is on the skin, flush thoroughly and then wash with mild soap and lukewarm water. Proceed to decontaminate and survey under the direction of radiation safety staff.
f.	FACILITY DECONTAMINATION	• Upon the direction of radiation safety staff, proceed to clean up spill and survey as in I.d. and I.e. (above). • Shoe covers should be used to prevent personal contamination. • Personal dosimetry may be required.

Office of Radiation Safety
24/7 Number
(352) 392-7359