

## Laboratory Radiation Safety Practices

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

#### General Accident Procedures

##### Report by Telephone

Pullman campus users must report radiation accidents promptly to the Radiation Safety Office (RSO) by telephone at 335-8916 (during normal business hours) or 911 (on a 24-hour basis).

Non-Pullman campus users must report radiation accidents promptly to the RSO by telephone at 335-8916 (during normal business hours) or the local county/area emergency response number (on a 24-hour basis).

##### Written Reports

After reporting the accident by telephone, complete the Radioactive Materials Incident and/or Accident Report and route the form to the RSO. Print the PDF master on S90.55.7 or complete onscreen and print to obtain copies of the form as needed.

##### Injury Reports

If an individual is injured, submit a completed Incident Report (Accidental Injury and/or Occupational Illness) to Benefits and Payroll Services within 24 hours of the incident. Print the PDF master form on S25.20.7 or complete onscreen and print to obtain form supplies.

##### Cleanup and Surveys

Perform necessary cleanup efforts and confirmatory radiation surveys. Contact the RSO for assistance as needed.

##### Chemicals Involved

If any hazardous chemicals are involved, consult the Laboratory Safety Manual for cleanup procedures. See S70.45.

Contact EH&S for assistance.

#### Minor Spill

When there is a minor radiation hazard:

- Notify people in vicinity.
- Assess and address first aid needs as training permits.
- Soak up liquids with or using absorbents, or use a moist absorbent sponge or pad on dry powders to prevent spreading.
- Restrict access to area.
- Use signs or stickers to clearly designate the spill area.
- Initiate cleanup with the assistance of the Radiation Safety Office.
- After cleanup, monitor the area and personnel. If there is a potential for internal contamination, inform the RSO. Appropriate bioassays will be performed. See S90.70.
- Submit a completed Radioactive Materials Incident and/or Accident Report to the Radiation Safety Office. See S90.55.7.

#### Intermediate Spill

When a spill includes radiation hazard and slight chance of airborne radioactivity:

- Notify people in the vicinity.
- Assess and address first aid needs as training permits.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Office.
- If the spill is outside the hood, close the hood door and shut down fans that might circulate radioactivity.
- Isolate area until decontamination can be initiated.
- Decontaminate with Radiation Safety Office assistance. Radiation surveys are necessary after decontamination.
- Remove protective clothing and monitor before leaving area.
- Submit a completed Radioactive Materials Incident and/or Accident Report to the Radiation Safety Office. See S90.55.7.

#### Spill With Airborne Hazard

When a spill includes major airborne radioactivity:

- Notify people in the vicinity.
- Evacuate others in the lab.
- Shut the hood door and get out of the laboratory. Hold breath in transit.
- Assess and address first aid needs as training permits.
- Isolate the area.
- Notify Radiation Safety Office and wait until help arrives.
- Remove protective clothing and monitor.
- Bioassays may be appropriate if internal contamination is likely. See S90.70.
- Submit a completed Radioactive Materials Incident and/or Accident Report to the Radiation Safety Office. See S90.55.7.

#### Radiation Field Exposure

When exposure of any individual to an above-normal radiation field is suspected:

- Immediately inform the Radiation Safety Office.
- Ensure that the source of the radiation is controlled with shielding or by disabling the radiation machine (turning off the main power switch).
- Inform all other personnel in the area.
- Ensure that any confusion between radiation field exposure and radioactive contamination is minimized or eradicated.

See the PDF master form:

S90.55.7: Radioactive Materials Incident and/or Accident Report  
Print or complete onscreen and print as needed

Online at [http://www.wsu.edu/manuals\\_forms/HTML/SPPM/S90\\_Radiation\\_Safety/S90.00\\_Contents.htm](http://www.wsu.edu/manuals_forms/HTML/SPPM/S90_Radiation_Safety/S90.00_Contents.htm)