

Hazardous Materials Spill (updated October 2024)

On-Campus:

A hazardous material is any substance or agent (biological, chemical, radiological, and/or physical), which can pose a risk to humans, the environment, and property.

Before The Spill:

Be aware of hazardous materials in your area as possible.

If in a chemistry/biology/science lab, follow any protocols that have been given.

Have a general understanding of what a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is.

Know the location of an eye wash station or shower should you need to decontaminate.

Directly After the Spill:

If possible, locate the SDS of hazardous materials involved.

Do not attempt to clean up the hazardous spill

Use the following acronym RAIN:

Recognize to potential hazard/threat

Avoid becoming contaminated/injured

Isolate the hazardous area

Notify the appropriate support.

The appropriate support may be a lab manager, instructor, or police department (5555)

If there has been an exposure, in general, do the following: You will want to consult the SDS document for details about medical response.

Skin:

- Immediately flush with cool water for at least 15 minutes
- Remove all contaminated clothing.
- If there are no visible burns remove all jewelry.

Eyes:

- Immediately begin irrigating the eye(s).
- Remove contact lens if possible.

Smoke or Airborne contaminants:

- Relocate to an area where there is fresh air.
- Never attempt to enter a location where potentially dangerous air contaminants exit.

**In each situation seek immediate medical attention as required*

Evacuate if needed to get to a safe location

DO NOT RE-ENTER THE AREA until directed to by authorized personnel.

Off-Campus:

In the event a hazardous materials spill takes place off-campus and affects campus, such as a roadway or railway accident causing a spill, first responders may notify UVU dispatch of the incident. This will then be communicated to UVU Police, the Emergency Manager, and other senior leadership.

The following actions may occur:

- A determination about opening an EOC will be made (senior leadership).
- Communication to the campus community about protective actions (shelter-in-place).
- Communication with city EMS/Fire and/or Police depending on which campus is affected.
- HVAC employees notified to initiate shutting down air handler systems.
- Notify University Marketing/Communications regarding any media requests or campus communications.
- Consider health effects to people exposed.
- Consider partial or total evacuation.
- Consider cancelation of classes. Consider university closure.
- Consider recovery actions that need to be taken.

All response actions are contingent upon where the chemical spill is located, how much hazardous material is involved, wind direction, type of chemical and so on.

UVU will confer with proper authorities before lifting a shelter-in-place order or returning to campus if evacuated.