

SECTION 6

RADIATION EMERGENCIES

6.1 MINOR SPILL

Incidents which involve the release or spillage of fewer than 100 microcuries of a radionuclide can generally be regarded as "minor". In such cases:

- Notify all other persons in the room at once.
- Clear the room of all persons except those needed to deal with the spill.
- Survey the hands and feet of the involved personnel for possible contamination.
- Confine the spill immediately.
 - Liquids: Drop absorbent paper on the spill.
 - Solids: Dampen thoroughly, taking care not to spread contamination. Use water, unless a chemical reaction would release air contaminants; otherwise use oil.
- Notify the laboratory supervisor.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Office (phone: 8-2008).
- After hours, notify the Campus Police (phone: 8-3231).
- Do not impede medical treatment.

6.2 MAJOR SPILL OR RELEASE:

An incident that occurs outside a fume hood and that involves the release of more than 100 microcuries of a radionuclide, should be considered as "major." In such cases:

- Evacuate the room immediately. Carry a survey meter and shut doors and windows on the way out.
- Survey the hands and feet of the involved personnel for possible contamination.
- Notify the laboratory supervisor.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Office (phone: 8-2008).
- After hours, notify the Campus Police by (phone: 8-3231).
- Post the laboratory door with a "Keep Out" sign.
- In a safe place, assemble those persons who were present in the laboratory.
- Wait for assistance.
- Do not impede medical treatment.

6.3 PERSONNEL CONTAMINATION:

- In the event of suspected personnel contamination:
- Notify the Radiation Safety Office immediately (phone: 8-2008).
- Remove all contaminated laboratory personal protective clothing (lab coat, gloves, etc.)
- If possible, wash contaminated area with mild soap and water.
- Monitor the contaminated area.
- Repeat washing as necessary.
- Do not impede medical treatment.

SECTION 6, CONTINUED

6.4 ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PERSONAL INJURY:

For any accident involving personal injury, medical treatment or assistance will always be the first priority. This may involve administering first aid and/or calling 8-3231 for emergency medical assistance. Inform the police of the potential for radioactive contamination. For accidents involving radioactive materials, contamination control and exposure control are important but should never delay or impede medical assistance. If radioactive materials are involved, emergency personnel should be notified before treatment takes place.