

READY

Rochester Institute of Technology

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Hazardous Materials and Chemical Spills

Hazardous material spills can occur both inside and outside of RIT buildings. Requirements of an emergency response to a spill depend on whether the spill poses a threat to human health, property, and/or the environment. Most likely, incidents of disaster magnitude will occur outside, such as a truck accident involving large quantities of hazardous materials. Nevertheless, spills inside an RIT building may trigger an emergency response if certain conditions are met.



What You Should Know

- Exposure response procedures for each chemical used in your area as described in Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- Where MSDSs are stored for each chemical used.
- What the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is to avoid exposure incidents.
- Working with a partner may help reduce the likelihood of accidents, as well as improve response should a spill occur.

Monthly editions of the RIT READY newsletter will have specific information on what you should do in specific types of emergencies.

Next Volume:
Utility Failure

Find More Information at emergency.rit.edu

What You Should Do

Inside Spills:

- Evacuate the building if the hazardous material spill cannot be controlled.
- Refrain from eating or drinking and from applying cosmetics in any area impacted by a spill.
- Small spills (less than 500 ml) that are localized if you are familiar with the hazard and response:
 - Have individuals vacate the area.
 - Clean the spill using spill kit material.
 - Notify a supervisor.
- Larger spills (more than 500 ml) of a known chemical and/or any size spill of an acutely toxic, radioactive, or unidentified chemical:
 - Clear the area to ensure no hazardous material exposure is occurring.
 - Contact Public Safety (585-475-3333 or RITPUBLICSAFETY on AIM) and follow instructions given.



Report any emergency by calling Public Safety at 585-475-3333 (v/tty) or RITPUBLICSAFETY on AIM

Outside Spills:

- Report the building address, including the nearest cross street or nearest adjacent bldg(s), to Public Safety (585-475-3333 or RITPUBLICSAFETY on AIM).
- Alert others in the immediate vicinity to vacate the area.
- Restrict access to the affected area.
- If possible, try to protect drainage areas and soil from contamination.
- For spills of petroleum products:
 - If greater than five gallons and/or not contained on an impervious surface, contact Public Safety (585-475-3333 or RITPUBLICSAFETY on AIM).
 - If less than 5 gallons contained on an impervious surface, cleanup using spill cleanup equipment (contact Environmental Health and Safety at 585-475-2043 for equipment or assistance).

Public Safety Reporting Information:

- Telephone: 585-475-3333
- Instant Message: RITPUBLICSAFETY on AIM
- Provide the following information:
 - Building name.
 - Exact location within the building or outside area.
 - Your name and phone number.
 - Characteristics of spill (colors, smells, visible gases).
 - Name of substance, if known.
 - Names of injured, if any.
 - Do not hang up until advised to do so by the dispatcher.
 - Provide emergency responders with the MSDS for the spilled material.



Sign up for RIT Alert so you'll get notified in cases of emergency. RIT Alert allows RIT to contact the community by sending messages via Instant Message, text message to cell phones, voice message (mobile or land-line) and e-mail. For more information, connect to <http://finweb.rit.edu/buscont/massnotification.html>.