

# Radiological Emergencies

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## **Response Actions: Skin Contamination:**

1. Serious Injuries – Do not decontaminate before seeking medical assistance. Contact Radiation Safety and individual's supervisor.
2. Minor Injuries – Wash affected skin with soap and water.
3. Remove gloves and all potentially contaminated clothing.
4. Personnel assisting should wear gloves and put on a fresh pair of gloves after clothing removal.
5. Call the Division of Radiation Safety, 301-496-5774.
6. If after hours contact Security (GRC x8119 or BRC x3000) and ask for Radiation Safety Assistance.
7. Notify individual's supervisor.

## **In the event of a radiological spill:**

1. Notify personnel in the room/area of the spill.
2. Confine the contamination, using absorbent material.
3. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes before going to a clean area.
4. Survey yourself and others to ensure no spread of contamination.
5. After hours, contact Security. Ask for Radiation Safety assistance.
6. During business hours, contact the Division of Radiation Safety, 301-496-5774.
7. Wash the parts of the body that may have come in contact with radioactive material.
8. Survey again to ensure that no contamination is present.

## **Clean-up Actions: Large Spill - Greater than 1 millicurie; Larger than 10 square feet; Volume greater than 1 liter:**

1. Notify the Division of Radiation Safety, 301-496-5774. After hours contact Security, (GRC x8119 or BRC x3000) and ask for Radiation Safety Assistance.
2. Place absorbent material over the spill to keep from spreading.
3. Notify others in area and limit access to the spill area.
4. Monitor yourself and others for contamination. Decontaminate immediately if any contamination is found.
5. Label the boundaries of the spill area with Caution Radioactive Material tape.
6. Gather cleaning supplies such as moistened paper towels and scouring powder or any commercially available detergent. **DO NOT USE HOUSEKEEPING's** equipment and supplies.
7. Wear lab coat, gloves (and shoe covers if necessary) while decontaminating the spill area.
8. Minimize the volume of water used to decontaminate.
9. Begin cleaning at the edges of the spill and work toward the center (lowest to highest).
10. Dispose of all cleanup materials as radioactive waste.
11. Resurvey yourself for contamination, including bottom of shoes, to ensure that no spreading of contamination has occurred.

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12. Smear the area to ensure that removable contamination is below 2200 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> in a restricted area or below 220 dpm/100 cm<sup>2</sup> in an unrestricted area.
13. Document spill cleanup on a monthly contamination survey form ([NIH 88-12](#)).

For additional information, refer to the Division of Radiation Safety (DRS) web site:  
<http://www.ors.od.nih.gov/sr/drs/policies/Pages/8812instructions.aspx>.

## Emergency Radiation Safety Assistance for Baltimore Facilities:

### Weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

- Contact the Division of Radiation Safety at (301) 496-5774.
- In case of serious injury or fire, DIAL 9-911 first, and then contact the Division of Radiation Safety at the above number.

### Evenings, Weekends, and Holidays

- In case of serious injury/fire, DIAL 9-911 first, then contact the Division of Radiation Safety per the below call list:
  1. Larry Koenig                      240-515-7516 (CELL)      410-551-4869 (H)
  2. Dan McDonald                    240-281-7341 (CELL)      301-412-2575 (H)
  3. Eric Munger                        240-383-9551 (CELL)      206-851-0884 (H)
  4. John Jacobus                       240-328-8285 (CELL)      301-464-1518 (H)
  5. Laurenti Ngutter                  240-328-8271 (CELL)      301-916-0562 (H)
  6. Nancy Newman                    240-328-8263 (CELL)      301-926-4073 (H)
  7. Cathy Ribaudó                      240-515-6798                301-460-6878 (H)

### Emergency Procedure for Irradiator Facilities

1. If the irradiator malfunctions, lock the door to the irradiator room and leave the area.
2. Contact the Division of Radiation Safety as indicated above.
3. Contact the Irradiator Custodian:

Louis Rezanka	BRC 4B002A	410-558-8492	240-350-4585 7.
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