

Safe Operating Procedure

Serial Number: SOP79, Version: 2, Author: Lisa Grayson

Division: All, Building: All, Lab:

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Title: Radioactive Spill Procedure, Minor Spill

Important Information

A spill is classed as minor if all of the following apply: it is contained in a small area, e.g. a spill tray, and there is no risk of spread; there is no risk of significant dose to persons involved; no persons or clothing, other than protective clothing, have become contaminated; less than 10MBq of radioactivity has been spilled. If any of these criteria DO NOT apply, follow the procedure for a major spill (SOP 84).

Key Points to remember when dealing with Radioactive Spills

1. Don full PPE, i.e. lab coat, double gloves, safety glasses, overshoes, and personal monitors.
2. Use bench-coat, shiny side up, to create a safe walkway.
3. Deal with personal contamination and injuries first.
4. Minimise your exposure time, without rushing.
5. Maximise the distance between you and the source.
6. Use shielding as much as possible.

Procedure for Minor Spills

1. Notify those in the immediate vicinity and instruct them to keep back.
2. If required, get a coworker to summon a First Aider and ensure First Aid progresses without any risk to the First Aider.
3. If your gloves have become contaminated: carefully remove and dispose of in appropriate waste bin. If your lab coat has become contaminated: remove, bag, shield (if necessary) and inform RPS.
4. Carry out Clean Up - see SOP 113.
5. Ensure all individuals leaving the spill zone are thoroughly monitored before exiting.
6. Notify your RPS of the spill and assist in the completion of an on-line incident report.