SAFETY UNLIMITED, INC.

Safety Tip of the Week

Laboratory - Chemical Spill Response

Many spills in the laboratory work area can be prevented. Development and implementation of good laboratory practices will significantly reduce the likelihood of spills.

If handled properly, a spill may be nothing more than a nuisance. If handled improperly, a spill can seriously disrupt your activities and the work of your colleagues. At worst, a spill can cause bodily harm or property damage.

Procedures for Cleaning Up Simple Spills:

Before cleaning up a simple spill, be sure that you can do so safely. You must have the right personal protective equipment, including, at a minimum, appropriate eye protection, protective gloves, and a lab coat. Additional protective equipment may be required for spills that present special hazards (such as corrosive or reactive spills or spills that have a splash potential).

The following steps should be taken during spill cleanup:

1. Prevent the spread of dusts and vapors;
2. Neutralize acids and bases, if possible;
3. Control the spread of the liquid;
4. Absorb the liquid;
5. Collect and contain the cleanup residues;
6. Dispose of the wastes; and
7. Decontaminate the area and affected equipment.

If you are aware of it, take care of it!!