**Environmental Health and Safety**

**University of South Carolina**

**Procedures for Laboratory Emergencies**

**Call 911 for all medical and life-threatening emergencies!**

**Provide the following information to 911 dispatch**

* Your name and phone#
* Incident location:

**Coker Life Sciences, room 511**

* Injured person, *if any*, specific injury and location; request ambulance *if needed*
* Hazardous materials involved, *if known*
* What happened; describe activities that caused the incident and your initial response
* Other relevant information that may help responders evaluate and stabilize the incident
* Other information asked by dispatch

**Laboratory Information**

Building & Room: CLS 511 Lab Phone #: NA

Contact the following if an incident occurs in this laboratory.

**Tad Dallas 225-239-0410**

The following emergency equipment are available in this lab:

* Fire extinguisher in **they didn’t give us one**
* Emergency shower in**left of entrance**
* Eyewash in **left of entrance**
* Chemical spill kit in **below sink**
* First aid kit in **above sink**

**If you see smoke and suspect a fire:**

1. Pull an emergency fire alarm.

2. Evacuate the building using the nearest exit stairway. Warn everyone on your way out.

3. Call 911 and provide information listed above.

4. Proceed to the designated evacuation area.

**If your clothing catches on fire:**

1. “STOP, DROP and ROLL”. (If someone is on fire, instruct the person to drop to the ground and to roll back and forth).

2. Cover your face with your hands.

3. Never use a fire extinguisher on a person. Use a fire blanket to help smother the flames. A damp towel may be used if the fire does not involve water-reactive chemicals.

**Evacuation information**

Fire and other emergencies will require you to leave the building. In case of a fire, always use the stairs, not the elevator!

* *The nearest fire alarm is in the hallway.*
* *The building evacuation route is posted in the hallway*
* *If this primary route is not safe, the other way out is main staircase.*
* *All lab staff are to meet at* ***the reflecting pool in front of library*** *after exiting the building.*
* *Designated Coordinator, Tad Dallas, will take attendance to ensure that everyone had safely evacuated.*
* *If you can provide information about the incident, proceed to the Incident Command on site.*
* *Do not re-enter the building until the Incident Commander has declared that it is safe to return!*

***FOR EMERGENCIES NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT, REFER TO http://carolinaalert.sc.edu/***

**If there is a chemical or biological spill:**

1. Determine if it is a “major” or “minor” spill. A minor spill is one that is contained (*e.g.,* inside fume hood, biosafety cabinet) or small enough that it can be cleaned up safely with the spill kit available and where special personal protection (*i.e.* respirator) is not required.
2. Assist anyone who may have been contaminated or injured during the spill.
3. Clean up a minor chemical spill using your chemical spill kit and biological spills with your biological spill kit.
4. Call USC Police **(803)** **777-4215** and EH&S (803) 727-5706 or (803) 422-2122 for major spills and spills with mercury or HF.
5. Contain a major spill with appropriate absorbent, **only** if it can be done safely (*i.e.*, spill does not pose an inhalation hazard).
6. Post “Hazardous Chemical Spill - DO NOT ENTER” on entrance door and evacuate the area.
7. Do not re-enter until Emergency Responders or EH&S have cleaned up the spill and declared the building and laboratory safe for reentry.

**If your eyes or skin were exposed to chemicals or biological materials:**

1. Pull the safety shower lever to start the water flowing. For eyewashes, push lever to start the water flowing.
2. Wash off contaminants from your eyes by holding your eyes open to get the water under your eyelids.
3. Remove all contaminated clothing and shoes to effectively wash off skin contaminants.
4. Stay under the water for at least 15 min to wash off contaminant. If your skin came into contact with HF, wash HF off for 5 minutes, then start to massage liberal amount of calcium gluconate gel to affected area. Repeat application every 15 minutes.
5. Proceed to Center for Health and Well-being or the nearest ER for immediate treatment. Provide the Safety Data Sheet of the chemical or biological material involved.

**If there is a spill of, or exposure to radioactive materials:**

* Clean up small spills (<1 ml) by using an appropriate rad decontamination solution. Continue cleanup until contamination is less than 3X the background level.
* A spill where liquid is flowing or there is widespread powder contamination are considered a major a spill. Contain flowing liquid using an appropriate absorbent. Cover dry powder spill with a damp cloth. Call the Radiation Safety Office (803) 777-7530 or (803) 777-5269 immediately to request assistance.
* Report all incidents and near misses involving radioactive materials, no matter how small to the Radiation Safety Office.
* Personnel present in the lab at the time of the spill must have their clothing, shoes, hands and feet surveyed for contamination before leaving the vicinity to avoid spreading contamination beyond the laboratory room.
* If contamination is identified on clothing, immediately remove clothing and survey the underlying skin. If skin is contaminated, immediately wash with soap and water. Refer to *page 46* of the *Radiation Safety Manual* for more detailed instructions.
* If a laser injury to the eye and/or skin is suspected or known, or if an x-ray exposure is suspected or known, contact 911 immediately for transport to the nearest Emergency Room. Known or suspected eye injuries from a laser must be evaluated and treated by an ophthalmologist as soon as possible. Notify ER personnel the type of laser or x-ray that caused the injury.

**If fume hood ventilation fails while working with an inhalation hazard:**

* Close the fume hood sash.
* Advise lab occupants and neighboring labs to evacuate the area.
* Post “DO NOT ENTER, Contaminated Area” on entrance door.
* Call EH&S (803) 777-5269 or UofSC Police Department after office hours (803) 777-4215 to have the air contamination evaluated.
* Call Facilities (803) 777-9675 to arrange for fume hood repair.
* Call EH&S to have the fume hood re-certified after the repair is completed.

**EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS**

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| **Department/Agency/Safety Personnel** | **Phone Number** | **Type of Emergency** |
| **Emergency Dispatch**  **UofSC Police Department\*** | 911 from any phone  (803) 777-4215 | Medical and other life-threatening emergencies such as fire, major spill, injury, others |
| **Environmental Health & Safety (EHS)** | Dial Area Code (803) for all numbers below:  Chemical Spill: 727-5706  422-2122  Fire Safety: 413-9359  Chem & Lab Safety:  351-9874  Biological Safety: 622-3737  Radiation Safety: 960-0169  EH&S Main Office: 777-5269 | Non-emergency (non-life threatening and does not require immediate attention) chemical spill, chemical exposure, unsafe conditions |
| **Department of Facilities\*** | (803) 777-9675  24-hour phone number | Emergency and non-emergency facility repair requests |
| **Student Health Services**  **Center for Health and Well-Being**  **1401 Devine St.**  **Columbia, SC 29208** | (803) 777-3175  *Fall and Spring Semesters* Monday – Friday: 8 AM - 5 PM Sunday: 2PM – 8 PM  *Summer Hours* Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  *Closed on University holidays* | Medical treatment for UofSC Columbia students and employees during normal work hours |
| **Prisma Health Richland Hospital Emergency Room**  **5 Medical Park Rd, Columbia, SC 29203** | [(803) 434-7000](javascript:void(0)) | Emergency medical treatment for all UofSC students and employees after normal office hours |
| **Prisma Health Occupational Health Services**  **1301 Taylor St, Suite 2H**  **Columbia, SC 29201** | 803-296-3500  Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (closed Thursday noon–1 p.m.) | For lab workers working with animals - medical treatment for animal-related injuries during normal office hours |
| **CompEndium Services** | 877-709-2667  24/7 | To schedule treatment for all work-related injuries |

***\*School of Medicine Campus: call VA Police Emergency:(803) 695-6804***

***VA Police Non-emergency:(803) 695-7911***

***SOM-VA Facilities: (803) 216-3150***