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| **Formaldehyde Spill Cleanup** |
| **Purpose** | This procedure provides instructions for Formaldehyde Spill Cleanup. |
| **Definitions** | *Small spill* – less than 50 mL, or manageable by employee.*Large spill* – greater than 50 mL, or unmanageable by employee.*Safety data sheet (SDS)* * Access from Star Net homepage. Choose “Emergency & Safety” tab. Choose the “MSDS Online” link.
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| **Procedure** | **Employee Exposure**1. Obtain assistance!
2. Contact Security (recommended to have a co-worker/employee contact Security).
	* Minneapolis: 5-7777
	* St. Paul: 1-8899
3. Remove contaminated clothing immediately. Consider carefully cutting or tearing clothing to avoid exposure with the face and head.
	* Have a co-worker/employee contact EVS or the OR for a set of scrubs.
4. Proceed to nearest eyewash station or safety shower.
5. Flush with water for a minimum of 15 minutes.
6. Report to Employee Health Service or United or Abbott Northwestern Emergency Department.
7. Contact laboratory management.
8. Complete Employee Incident Report.
* <https://starnet.childrenshc.org/forms/EmployeeIncident/>
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|  | **Small Spill** 1. Protect yourself and others.
	* Avoid contact with the formaldehyde.
	* Attend to any persons who may have been injured by the spill.
2. Secure the area.
	* Close doors to keep vapors from spreading.
	* Do not walk through or allow others to walk through the spilled material.
	* Do not allow anyone into the spill area without proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
3. Contain or clean up spill.
	* Obtain SDS.
	* Don appropriate PPE (lab coat, gloves, eye/face protection).
	* Use formaldehyde spill kit or other appropriate sorbents to contain and clean up spill.
	* Place all contaminated items into a sealed container labeled with formaldehyde warnings:
		+ **Danger**
		+ **Formaldehyde-contaminated (clothing) equipment**
		+ **May cause cancer**
		+ **Causes skin, eye, and respiratory irritation**
		+ **Do not breathe vapor**
		+ **Do not get on skin**
4. Remove all waste to Hazardous Waste room.
5. Notify laboratory leadership and the hospital Safety Manager.
6. Complete Safety Learning Report (SLR).
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| **Large Spill**1. Protect yourself and others.
	* Avoid contact with the formaldehyde.
	* Attend to any persons who may have been injured by the spill.
2. Secure the area.
	* Close all doors in the near vicinity to keep vapors from spreading.
	* Do not walk through or allow others to walk through the spilled material.
	* Do not allow anyone into the spill area without appropriate PPE.
3. Contact Security.
	* Minneapolis: 5-7777
	* St. Paul: 1-8899
4. Provide the following information:
	1. Spill location.
	2. Name of material (formaldehyde).
	3. Type of spill (liquid).
	4. Size of spill area.
5. Notify laboratory leadership and the hospital Safety Manager.
6. Trained personnel from Safety will manage the cleanup, decontamination, and disposal of all wastes.
7. Complete SLR.
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| **Supporting Documents** | [912.02 Hazardous Materials Spills](http://khan.childrensmn.org/manuals/policy/900/005313.pdf)[1067.00 Work Related Injury/Illness Reporting and Management](http://khan.childrensmn.org/manuals/policy/1000/004975.pdf)[SA 7.03 Formaldehyde Exposure Control Plan](http://khan.childrensmn.org/Manuals/Lab/SOP/Gen/Safety/SA/210377.pdf) |
| **References** | 1. CLSI. *Clinical Laboratory Safety; Approved Guideline – Third Edition.* CLSI document GP17-A3. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2012.
2. OSHA. Formaldehyde standard (29 CFR 1910.1048).
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| **Historical Record** | **Version** | **Written/Revised by:** | **Effective Date:** | **Summary of Revisions** |
| 1 |  | 11/1989 | Initial Version |
|  | 2 |  | 06/1990 |  |
|  | 3 | Carol Cram | 08/2001 |  |
|  | 4 | Kerstin Halverson | 12/15/03 |  |
|  | 5 | Carol Buhl | 07/13/15 | Reformatted to CMS.Renumbered from 4.2.2.Added Supporting Documents.Updated References. |
|  | 6 | Lab Safety Committee / Carol Buhl | 05/25/17 | Added label warnings for hazardous waste bag containing contaminated clothing/equipment. |