

Contact Information

Should you encounter a radiological emergency, spill or a lost radioactive source, please do the following:

- Normal Business Hours: (Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
 - Contact the UAB Department of Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) at (205) 934-2487.
- During Off Duty Hours (Holidays and hours outside of normal working hours)
 - Call UAB Radio Paging at (205) 934-3411
 - Ask for the Health Physicist On-Call (HPOC), at pager #7746.
 - If you cannot get the HPOC, then ask for the UAB Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) at pager # 8125. RSO cell number is: (205) 383-5228
 - If you cannot get the RSO, then ask for the UAB Assistant Radiation Safety Officer (ARSO) at pager # 5591. ARSO cell number is: (757) 304-2251
 - Otherwise, contact UAB Police Dispatch at (205) 934-4434.



In the event of a fire contact the UAB Police Department as well as the Birmingham Fire Department. **In addition**, contact the UAB Radiation Safety Officer if radioactive materials are involved.

Spills

Minor

1. Attend to any injured personnel first
2. Notify all persons in the area in which the spill occurred.
3. Prevent the spread by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
4. Clean up using disposable plastic gloves and, if available, remote handling tongs. Clean from the outside of the spill area towards the center. Insert into a plastic bag and dispose of in the radioactive waste container. Include all other contaminated materials such as plastic gloves.
5. Survey appropriately with a GM survey meter and wipe test, check the area around the spill, hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination.
6. Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Program and other UAB entities may be required.

Major

1. Attend to any injured personnel first
2. Notify all persons in the area in which the spill occurred.
3. Prevent the spread by covering the spill with absorbent paper.
4. Confine the movement of all personnel potentially contaminated to prevent the spread. Prevent entry into the area.
5. Leave the room and lock all doors leading to it to prevent entry and to further prevent the spread of contamination beyond the confines of the immediate room.
6. Contact the Radiation Safety Program immediately
7. Clean up using disposable plastic gloves and, if available, remote handling tongs. Clean from the outside of the spill area towards the center. Insert into a plastic bag and dispose of in the radioactive waste container. Include all other contaminated materials such as plastic gloves.
8. Shield the source: If possible, the spill should be shielded but only if it can be done without further contamination or without significantly increasing your radiation exposure. Quickly withdraw to a safe distance.
9. Survey appropriately with a GM survey meter and wipe test, check the area around the spill, hands, clothing, and shoes for contamination.

Radiation Safety Emergency Procedures

10. Ventilation system: Switch off all fans, air conditioners and hoods, and close air vents and hood sashes. In some locations, maintenance will have to be called to turn off the air conditioners.
11. Personnel decontamination: Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by the Radiation Safety Officer or designate. If the spill is on the skin, flush thoroughly and then wash with mild soap and lukewarm water. The RSO will evaluate all instances of personnel exposure and contamination and advise.
12. Report: Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Program and other UAB entities may be required

Involving Radioactive Dust, Mists, Fumes, Organic Vapors and Gases

Accidents

1. Notify all other persons to vacate the room immediately.
2. Hold breath or cover airway and close escape valves, switch off air circulating devices, etc., if time permits.
3. Vacate the room and notify the Radiation Safety Program immediately.
4. Ascertain that all doors giving access to the room are closed, lock if possible. Post conspicuous warnings or guards to prevent accidental opening of doors.
5. Thoroughly report all known or suspected occurrences of inhalations of radioactive materials.

Involving Injuries to Personnel and a Radiation Hazard

1. Always attend to the injured person first.
2. Immediately call the Radiation Safety Program and all other responders as prudent and required.
3. Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by the Radiation Safety Officer or designate.
4. Wash minor wounds immediately under running water while spreading the edges of the wound.
5. Report all radiation accidents involving personnel (wounds, overexposures, ingestion, inhalation) to the Radiation Safety Officer or his designate as soon as possible.
6. Report all injuries to the proper institution entity as required.
7. Complete all necessary [HRM On-The-Job Report Forms](#).

Mitigating Personnel Contamination

Implement the “Internal/External Dose Determination Protocol”

- Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for further evaluation by the RSP.
- If the skin is contaminated, flush and wash thoroughly with mild soap and lukewarm water and notify the Radiation Safety Office immediately.
- Be advised that the Director of Radiation Safety may require bioassays for internal dose determinations.

Contaminated areas of the body need to be identified using appropriate survey methods. Do not use any decontamination methods which may spread material, increase penetration into the body, or cause spread to a wounded area. Loose particles may be removed by gently applying the adhesive side of the tape to the particles attached to the skin. Most contamination may be removed by running water over the contaminated area. Use soap or detergent if water by itself doesn't remove all the contaminants.

Avoid harsh scrubbing which may increase skin penetration. If decontamination of personnel was not fully successful, consider inducing perspiration by covering the area with plastic — Rewash the affected area to remove any contamination that was released by the perspiration. If contamination persists, stronger decontamination methods may be necessary. Contact the Radiation Safety Office for further instructions.

Reporting

Thoroughly document and report all details to the UAB Radiation Safety Officer (RSO) as soon as possible, no later than 24 hours after the spill has occurred. Adhere to all UAB reporting requirements as well. The radiation spill/emergency report must, at least, include the following information:

- Name of person making the report (first and last name, Blazer ID, and phone number)
- Date and time of the incident
- Radioisotope(s) involved
- Total activity (in mCi) of the isotope(s) involved in the spill
- The maximum exposure levels measured at the site
- Building(s) and room number(s) directly and indirectly affected by the spill
- Route of entry into the body, if applicable

Radiation Safety Emergency Procedures

- Details as to how the spill occurred, including how far the spill spread
- How were the spill and wastes handled and where is the waste now?
- How was access to the affected area controlled
- Who attended to or cleaned the spill (first and last name, Blazer ID, and phone number)
- Names and contact information for all personnel who may have gotten contaminated (first and last name, Blazer ID, and phone number)

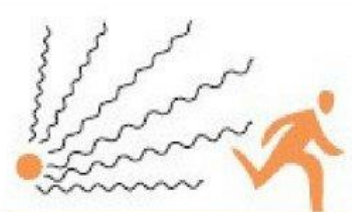


EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

IN THE EVENT OF A RADIOLOGICAL INCIDENT

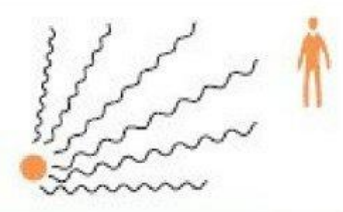
1. **Assist any injured personnel first.**
2. **Withdraw to a safe distance from the affected area and notify others in the area to stay away.**
3. **Contact the Radiation Safety Office IMMEDIATELY!**
[Call UAB Connect at \(205\) 934-3411 then ask for pager# 7746 \(Health Physicist On-Call\)](#)
4. **Prevent and confine the spread of contamination, post the area**
[If volatile radioisotopes are involved, turn off hoods and close doors to further minimize releases](#)
5. **Clean and survey the affected areas. Survey yourself as well!**
6. **Post and shield area if contamination is fixed**
7. **Report the incident to the Radiation Safety Office**

Remember the three principles of radiation protection:



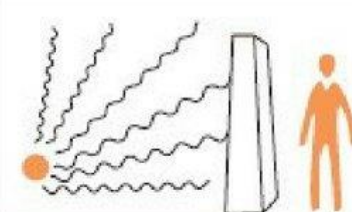
LESS TIME spent near the source: the less radiation received.

time



GREATER DISTANCE from source: the less radiation received

distance



Behind **APPROPRIATE SHIELDING** from source: the less radiation received.

shielding

