

5 - ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS AND NEAR ACCIDENTS



1. WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT?

All environmental accidents and near accidents must be logged.

Example of environmental accident:

- Spill of liquid chemicals during storage, handling or, transport
- Packaging breakage at reception
- Gas leak during storage, handling or, transport
- Fire with chemicals, stock that is hazardous to health or the environment
- Accidents with biological or radioactive substances

Example of near accident:

- Spills that is collected before it trickles through.
- Error in sorting of hazardous waste.



2. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

In the event of an accident – contact your manager!

Depending on the accident:

- The person responsible for isotopes
- The working environment manager
- The person in charge of waste
- Manager

Accident upon receipt of chemicals/dangerous goods:

- When the packaging is broken, please contact the recipient of the shipment, and the person responsible for at the department, so that it may be clarified, which chemical is in the package – please see UN No.
- Stop the spread of the spill, and absorb with absorption material (cat litter or vermiculite) – only without risks for anybody!
- Keep yourself informed about the properties and dangerousness of the substance – on www.Kemibrug.dk
- Please use protective equipment in accordance with advice on use of chemicals before removing the packaging.
- If the person responsible for chemicals is not present, the package received is moved to fume cupboard or it is moved outside of the building, if it is possible with no risk for that person! REMEMBER - use protective equipment (e.g. gloves, goggles, respiratory protector, etc.)
- Report/Log the incident.

Accidents with biologically active material or GMO material:

- In the event of an accident where such material as infected material is spread, gloves must be used.
- If spills or splashing occur with biologically active/viable GMO or material from this, 70% ethanol or 2% virkon is used for decontamination.

- 70% ethanol is sprayed on, works briefly, and is wiped off with paper tissues (the effect of ethanol is in practice the drying time of the ethanol).
- Or 2% virkon is applied and works for about 10 minutes before it is wiped off (the effect of virkon is in practice the drying time of the virkon). When using virkon, please rinse with water afterwards.
- When the spill is a large quantity, virkon powder can be sprinkled directly on the area with GMO contamination. Afterwards, the laboratory area is abandoned for ½ hour (when virkon is dissolved harmful vapours are produced, see workplace instruction). The powder is then removed by dissolving it in water.
- When water is poured on the virkon powder, the area must be abandoned again for ½ hour. Afterwards, the virkon solution may be mopped up.
- All gloves, paper tissues, mops and other textiles used in connection with the chemical disinfection are put in autoclave containers labelled "waste" and "coats/textiles" respectively for subsequent autoclaving.



Always follow local instructions that are given in pursuance of the Danish Working Environment Authority's approval.

2. FIRE





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Fighting a small fire – See local emergency plan!

3. REGISTRATION

Any person who is a witness to an accident or a near accident, is responsible for it being logged.

In connection with accidents in connection with transport or at loading/unloading of dangerous goods performed by SDU, a discrepancy report must be completed and the security adviser must be contacted, see annex 3 – Accidents and incidents in connection with the transport of hazardous goods performed by SDU that damages people, property, or the environment according to ADR 1.8.3.6.

REMEMBER that when ticking off:

- ACCIDENTS in the report, the security adviser must be contacted within 24 hours after the incident.
- INCIDENT in the report, the security adviser must be contacted no later than 7 days after the incident.

4. IF IN DOUBT ...

Contact the person responsible for chemicals in your department.