

Emergency Procedures

Handling Dangerous Spills

1. SPILLS

Liquid (except Mercury):

For concentrated acid or base (or a large quantity of unknown), and flammables, use spill pillows* to soak up. Wearing gloves* and dual half masks organic vapour/acid gas cartridge respirator, place pillows in plastic bags*, seal, label, and dispose. Otherwise use a sponge* for small spills.

Mercury:

Use mercury collector* to pick up as much as possible. Sprinkle lime sulfur over spill area, leave, then sweep up and put in a bag*. **DO NOT VACUUM UP!**

Dry Chemicals (except those listed below):

Use Dust/Mist DISPOSABLE RESPIRATOR. Sweep up, put in a container*. **AVOID CONTACT AND BREATHING OF DUST.**

Potassium, Phosphorus, Lithium and Sodium

Cover with clean, dry sand and call expert.

2. BREAKAGE

Thermometers:

If liquid is silvery gray it is mercury. See (b) above, and place broken glass in a closed container*. If liquid is red it is alcohol and can be sponged up.

Gas Tubes (e.g. Bromine, Iodine):

Avoid breathing vapours. Once the vapours have dissipated, treat as broken glass.

Radioactive Sources:

Not immediately harmful, but do not attempt to clean up. Label area and leave note with your name.

3. COMPRESSED GASES

All gas cylinders must be secured upright at all times. If one falls over, listen for gas leakage. If leakage is discovered, evacuate **REGARDLESS** of the type of gas. If there is no leakage, replace cylinder upright and secure.

Clean up of the release or spill of any hazardous chemical shall be done immediately under the direction of a Science Teacher. The principal or designate shall be informed immediately as to the nature, the extent and the hazard involved in the accident. The principal will determine the appropriate course of action necessary to ensure the safety of the occupants of the building. The head custodian shall also be immediately informed of the incident.