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Universal Hazardous Waste Spill Response Guidance

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Universal Hazardous Waste Spill Response Guidance

Purpose

This document is for spills and releases that do not need to be reported, as well as general information on spills that will need professional clean up. Spills and releases of universal waste can be hazardous to your health. If you do not feel confident with your ability to safely clean up a discharge of universal waste, contact your supervisor for assistance.

Preparation

All spills must be reported to immediate supervisors.

If the spill occurred on a carpet or other permeable surface, it may be necessary to remove the flooring to prevent continued exposure to universal waste. This debris should be considered contaminated and treated as hazardous waste. Contact your campus/site Safety representative.

Always wear safety glasses and disposable rubber gloves when cleaning universal waste spills.

A typical “All Purpose” spill kit may consist of 5-gallon sealable pail (or card board box if the kit is designated for broken bulbs only) with the following contents:

- A disposable dust pan or stiff paper or cardboard for scooping and collecting broken glass. Tongs are useful for picking up larger pieces without using your hands.
- Sticky tape for cleanup (e.g. duct tape); Packing tape if using a cardboard box
- Paper towels, Wypalls, or disposable wipes (for hard surfaces)
- Multiple heavy duty, sealable plastic bags (e.g. 2 gallon zip lock)
- Labels: Hazardous Waste and Universal Waste

Cleanup

Lamps (11 or more): A professional contractor is to be called to handle the cleanup. Supervisors are to contact UMS SM at (581-4055) or USM Resource Recovery (780-4658) for assistance.

Lamps (10 or less):

- Allow 5-10 minutes for local ventilation to remove any residual mercury vapor
- Do not vacuum
- Place broken lamp(s) in a heavy duty plastic bag initially and then place that bag into a cardboard box or 5-gallon sealable pail.
- Carefully scoop up glass fragments and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place debris and paper/cardboard in a sealable plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder. Place the used tape in a sealable plastic bag.

- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes (not applicable for rugs). Place the towels in a sealable plastic bag.
- Place all bagged waste in a cardboard box or 5 gallon sealable pail.
- Seal the container(s), and **store as universal hazardous waste**. Note: Cardboard boxes must be sealed with packing tape.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and face after cleaning up any universal waste spills.

Batteries:

- For batteries that are leaking, place the battery in a sealable 5-gallon pail with absorbent material such as paper towels. Leaking batteries will be treated as hazardous waste.
- Scoop or wipe up as much of the discharged material as possible. Wipe the spill area thoroughly with a wet sponge.
- Place dirty rags, towels, and sponges in the 5-gallon pail with the damaged batteries.
- Seal the container(s), and **store as hazardous waste**.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and face after cleaning up any hazardous waste spills.

Mercury (liquid) Spills:

- For mercury spills (such as from broken thermostats, switches, etc.) it is recommended that you use a designated mercury spill kit (if available) with an “All Purpose” 5 gallon sealable pail spill kit.
- Once all of the liquid has been removed from the surface, go over the area with sticky tape to pick up any remaining particles of mercury. All liquid mercury spill cleanup materials will be treated as hazardous waste.
- Place dirty rags, towels, sponges, masking tape and any other clean up materials in a sealable plastic bag first and then in a sealable 5-gallon pail container.
- Seal the container(s), and **store as hazardous waste**.
- Thoroughly wash your hands and face after cleaning up any hazardous waste spills.

Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs):

- Broken CRTs do not require any special clean up material besides a dust pan and broom. HOWEVER, they must be individually boxed (broken pieces included) using heavy cardboard boxes with a sealed plastic liner.