

UE Department of Chemistry Emergency Action Plan

Personal Injury

Introduction

The following procedures apply to accidents and injuries in the teaching and research laboratories in the Chemistry Department. All Faculty, teaching assistants, stockroom clerk, and lab supervisor are encouraged to take First Aid training. In case of serious injury, call 911. If trained, provide First Aid to the victim until emergency medical personnel arrive. For an injury involving exposure to chemicals (inhalation, ingestion, burns, etc.), which requires medical care, a copy of the SDS should be sent with the injured person to the health care provider. SDSs for chemicals used in teaching labs are located in the stockroom (KC 333). SDSs for research chemicals are located in the respective research labs.

First Aid Supplies

First Aid Supplies - Supplies are located in the chemistry stockroom (KC 333) and in marked drawers/cabinets in all teaching and research labs. The labs with first aid kits include: KC 335, KC 337, KC 338, KC 340, KC 341, KC 302, KC 303, KC 332.

Contents of First Aid Kits: Band-Aids; Gauze, Tape, Butterfly closures, Neosporin, Cleansing wipes, Gloves, Cold pack, and First aid guide.

First Aid Kits will be inventoried on an annual basis by members of the UE Department of Chemistry Safety Committee.

Types of Injuries

Chemicals on the Skin: Remove jewelry and contaminated clothing immediately. Flush the affected portion of the body with water for a minimum of 15 minutes. If appropriate, stand under the emergency safety shower and flush with water for a minimum of 15 minutes or until help arrives-direct water away from the eyes.

Chemicals in the Eyes: Use the emergency eyewash; hold the eyes open, and flush with water for 15 minutes. For contact lens wearers, begin flushing eyes and then have injured person remove the contact lens as soon as possible. Chemicals in the eye are *always* considered a serious injury and require evaluation by a medical specialist.

Small Cuts: Tell your instructor, and let your instructor evaluate the injury. Wash the cut thoroughly with water. If the injury is minor, you may use the first aid kit to treat the cut. If the injury hurts sufficiently that you can't finish the lab, then you will be escorted to Student Health for additional treatment.

Large Cuts: Tell your instructor, and let your instructor evaluate the injury. To stop or slow bleeding, apply pressure to the wound. If the wound is very large or there is glass or other foreign matter in the wound, then apply pressure around the arm or leg between the torso and the injury to slow the bleeding. In all cases, a large cut must be attended to by medical professionals. If possible you will be escorted to Student Health otherwise Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be called.

Small Burns: Tell your instructor, and let your instructor evaluate the burn. Chemical and thermal burns should both be treated with lots of cold running water. Do not use ointment immediately after the burn has been sustained. If you can't complete the experiment after initial treatment, you will be escorted to Student Health to receive additional treatment.

Large Burns: In all cases of significant burns, you must be attended to by medical professionals. If you sustain a large burn, then EMS will be called.

Fainting: If you feel faint, let your instructor know. You will be escorted out of the lab and to a place with fresh air so that your instructor can evaluate the situation. Likely, you will be escorted to Student Health where you may lie down and be evaluated further.

Breathing Difficulties: In all cases of difficulty in breathing you will either be escorted to Student Health, or EMS will be called.

Minor Injury

Immediate attention should be given to all injuries, however minor. The lab assistant can provide students with a Band-Aid, which the student can apply. Only the lab instructor should provide First Aid, if properly trained. All injured individuals shall be advised to seek medical attention if they

have any concerns about their injury. If there is any doubt, call the Student Health Center (xxxx) and request to speak to a nurse.

Serious Injury

Do not move a seriously injured person unless he/she is in an environment that poses additional threats to his/her safety (e.g. chemical exposure, fire etc.). Designate someone to call 911 with the following information: location, phone number, and the victim's condition. If possible, send someone outside to direct the emergency responders to the proper location. Keep the victim warm and quiet until help arrives. Provide First Aid if trained to do so.

Reporting

After any injury or situation requiring medical attention, the UE Accident Report should be completed. The completed form should be emailed to Jan Schrader (js652@evansville.edu), the manager of Environmental Management with a copy filed with the chairman (tt92@evansville.edu) of the UE Chemistry Safety Committee. Review the section describing how the injury happened and ask the persons involved to identify ways in which injuries can be prevented in the future. Use this opportunity to review safety procedures with students, lab assistants, and faculty.