



Environmental Health & Safety

Environmental Fact Sheet: Responding to Spills and Releases at UM SROC

This document provides an overview of the state environmental regulations and EHS guidelines for the report of spills and releases to the environment at University projects, sites and buildings.

Small spills and releases at the University of Minnesota Southern Outreach and Research Center (UM SROC) are managed by a coordinated response through UM SROC staff, Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) staff, and if needed, the Waseca Fire Department (WFD).

Step	Action required
1	<p>Contain the spill if possible to do safely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the release, if possible, by turning off any pump (use the “Emergency Stop” button, valve or by adding a bucket or other container under the drip or leak to contain the release.) • Locate spill kit and other necessary materials, including the Safety Data Sheet for the spilled material. • Ensure access to surface water and sewers is blocked using adsorbent pads or other methods to divert flow. Isolate the area from others by blocking it, roping it off or using cones.
2	<p>Call for help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For small spills, call Forrest Izuno at 507.461.0320 UM SROC Management for guidance and direction. • For large spills, call 9-1-1 to report the incident. Dispatch will contact WFD and or the Waseca Police Department, as needed. • Be prepared to provide the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your name, location and phone number, ○ Location of the incident: building, floor and room number, ○ Time and type of incident, ○ Name and quantity of chemicals involved, to the extent known, ○ The extent of injuries, if any. ○ Type of hazard to health or the environment including (particularly: flammable, oxidizer, highly reactive and air-born toxic or irritant materials), radioactive materials, biohazards). ○ The safest route to approach the spill.
3	<p>Clean up the spill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UM SROC staff make contact and coordinate communications and spill response activities, including managing local responders. • <u>If directed to do so</u>, clean up the spill yourself only if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ it does not involve injury, ○ the quantity spilled is less than half a quart of a moderately toxic chemical, ○ you have the proper training and proper protective equipment to do the cleanup, and ○ the spill is indoors and contained. • Contact a cleanup contractor (West Central Environmental 888.923.2778) for cleanup of any spill that cannot be managed locally.
4	<p>Report spills to operational managers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report significant spills/releases to Twin Cities UHS and DEM offices. • If a notification to the State Duty Officer is required, contact EHS compliance staff at 612.626.7957 prior to making a report.
5	<p>Additional Reporting for <u>releases to the environment</u>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A release to the environment is any spill to the air, land or to the water – including to the storm sewer, sanitary sewer or to a surface water body such as a drainage ditch. • EHS verifies that the State Duty Officer (651.649.5451) is contacted soon after the initial on-site evaluation has been completed, but no later than 24-hours after discovery of the release. • EHS determines if the release exceeds the Reportable Quantity (RQ) for the chemical released. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A convenient online tool to determine RQ is at http://homer.ornl.gov/rq/ ○ Report releases above the RQ to the National Response Center at 800.424.8802.

