14.0  EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Despite the strict observance of all laboratory safety rules, it is likely that accidents involving radioactive material will occur. For this reason, it is important that radioactive material users are aware of the proper procedures to follow for various types of accidents.

14.1 Minor Spills

An incident involving the release or spillage of less than one millicurie of a radionuclide in a nonvolatile form can generally be regarded as minor. In such cases:

1. **Notify** persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. **Confine** the spill by covering with absorbent paper.
3. **Monitor** hands, shoes, and clothing for contamination.
4. **Report** the incident to the Radiation Safety Officer and to the laboratory supervisor.
5. **Clean up** spill and initiate decontamination procedures.

14.2 Major Spills or Releases

An incident, which occurs outside of the hood and involves the release of a radionuclide in a volatile form or the release of one millicurie or more of a radionuclide in any form, should be considered major. In such cases:

1. **Notify** persons in the area that a spill has occurred.
2. **Evacuate** the room, shutting doors on the way out.
3. **Monitor** hands, shoes, and clothing for contamination.
4. **Notify** the Radiation Safety Officer and lab supervisor.
5. **Post** the laboratory door with a "Keep Out" sign.
6. **Assemble** those persons involved near the laboratory entrance and await assistance.

14.3 Accidents Involving Personal Injury

For any accident in which a person requires medical attention, the first priority for other laboratory personnel is to assist that individual in getting such attention. This may involve administering first aid and/or calling for emergency medical assistance. Once this has been accomplished, the previously described procedures for contamination control should be followed as appropriate.