Chemical Spills On Personnel

For spills covering small amounts of skin, immediately flush with flowing water for no less than 15 minutes. If there is no visible burn, wash with warm water and soap, removing any jewelry to facilitate removal of any residual materials. Check the MSDS to see if any delayed effects should be expected. It is advisable to seek medical attention for even minor chemical burns.

For spills on clothes, don't attempt to wipe or flush off the clothes. Quickly remove all contaminated clothing, shoes and jewelry while using the safety shower. Seconds count, and no time should be wasted because of modesty. Be careful not to spread the chemical on the skin, or especially in the eyes. To prevent contamination of the eyes use caution when removing pullover shirts or sweaters, it may be better to cut the garments off.

Immediately flood the affected body with tempered water for at least 15 minutes. Resume if pain returns. Do not use creams, lotions or salves. Get medical attention as soon as possible. Launder contaminated clothes separately from other clothing or discard as recommended in the MSDS.

Never work with chemicals in a laboratory that is not equipped with a safety shower.

For splashes into the eyes, immediately flush the eye with tempered potable water from a gently flowing source for at least 15 minutes. Hold the eyelids away from the eyeball, move the eye up and down and sideways to wash thoroughly behind the eyelids.

An eyewash fountain should be used, but if one is not available, injured persons should be placed on their backs and water gently poured into the corners of their eyes for at least 15 minutes.

Never work with chemicals in a lab that is not equipped with an eyewash fountain.

First aid for the eyes must always be followed by prompt treatment by a member of a medical staff or an ophthalmologist acquainted with management of chemical injuries to the eye.