CHAPTER SEVEN
EMERGENCIES

A radiation emergency may exist if unplanned exposure to radioactive material is possible due to loss, misplaced material or accident; or if same loss, misplaced material or accident may result in contamination of facilities or spread of contamination out of control. Since an emergency requires immediate action to reduce harm or damage, mCi quantities should be considered an emergency and ICi quantities should be considered an incident.

- Emergency Procedure (mCi)
  Persons having knowledge of a possible radiation emergency should do the following:
  1. Contain material as per lab emergency procedures
  2. Keep uninvolved people out of area until cleanup or appropriate measures are completed.
  3. Call the Department of Environment, Health and Safety to:
     a. Report the problem, stating whether emergency help is needed.
     b. Arrange for assistance and/or final survey.
     c. Record results of final survey to document adequate response.

- Incident Procedure (iCi)
  Persons having knowledge of a radiation incident should do the following:
  1. Contain material to minimize contamination.
  2. Keep uninvolved people out of area while cleaning up the spill, etc.
  3. Report to the Radiation Safety Officer as deemed appropriate.
  4. Record results of final survey to document adequate response.

The Radiation Safety Officer will:
  1. Supervise cleanup or restriction of area until emergency no longer exists.
  2. Determine if available personnel have cleaned area or have emergency in hand.
  3. Determine if report must be made to regulatory agencies in case of loss of material or exposure of personnel, and make the necessary report.

Report all emergencies that threaten life or property to 911.

Authorized users are directly responsible for the complete security of all radiation sources and radioactive wastes until pickup by EHS. Any loss of radioactive materials seriously jeopardizes your use privilege. Assure physical security of all sources by attendance or lock at all times.

2. SECURITY OF NEW RADIATION SOURCES:
A. Do not leave radioactive materials in a shipping box after receipt. Remove the radioactive material and put it into proper storage at once.
B. Always confirm that a radionuclide shipping box is empty, uncontaminated, and shipping labels are obliterated before releasing the box for disposal in the ordinary trash or recycling.
C. Be acutely aware of your radioactive inventory at all times.

3. SECURITY OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE:
A. Do not leave radioactive waste in a shipping box after receipt. Remove the radioactive waste until picked up by EHS.
B. Do not depend on Radiation label tape as an adequate warning to lay persons.
C. If a waste pickup rejection is received, move THE DUMPSTER!!
D. Do not leave radioactive waste in a shipping box after receipt. Remove the radioactive waste until picked up by EHS.

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