

# Solvent Spill Response

*A solvent is defined as a substance that dissolves a solute, resulting in a solution. They are highly flammable and volatile materials.*

**Where a hazard is believed to present an immediate danger, contact Campus Safety Services at (613) 520-2600 ext. 4444 IMMEDIATELY.**

## Minor Spill Clean-up Procedures:

Ensure there are no ignition sources in the area. If you feel there is a risk of fire or explosion, evacuate the lab and treat as a major spill and follow major spill procedures below. If the spill can be cleaned up safely, proceed with the following:

- Gather **pre-packaged spill kit**.
- Don the appropriate **personal protective equipment**.
- If there are drains in the area, use a boom, sock, or other material to prevent the hazardous material from reaching the drain.
- To **contain the spill**, gently pour **solvent adsorbent** (activated carbon) over the spill, working from the outer edge to the middle. This minimizes inhalation hazards.
- Using the absorbent pads from the spill kit, **carefully wipe** up the spilled liquid, again working from the outside in.
- Place all waste materials in a plastic bag. Once the spill has been fully cleaned, **dispose as hazardous waste**.
- Remove PPE and thoroughly **wash hands**.
- Use soap and water to wash the affected area and remove any minor residues that may be left.
- **Report** the incident to your supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#)
- **Replenish** your spill kit supplies.

## Major Spill Clean-up Procedures:

1. **Evacuate** immediate area. In the event of a chemical exposure, administer first aid. Call campus safety at **(613) 520-2600 ext. 4444**. Identify yourself, nature of the incident (e.g. fire, explosion, chemical spill, gas leak), location of the incident (building and room number), any injuries present, when and how the incident occurred.
2. **Wait** in a safe area for the response team. Your knowledge of the area will assist the team.
3. Do not allow unauthorized personnel to enter the contaminated area.
4. **Report** the incident to your supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#)

## Reporting

All workplace injuries, illnesses, and incidents must be reported immediately to the workplace supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#). This includes those affecting students, visitors, and contractors at Carleton University.