

Emergency Procedures – Decontamination of Personnel

Skin

- Wash area with soap and luke-warm water. Cold water will constrict the pores of your skin thus making it more difficult to remove the contamination. Inversely, hot water may expand the pores of your skin which may cause the contamination to further penetrate the skin surface.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Officer as soon as possible.
- After each wash re-survey the area with the appropriate contamination survey instrument and take note of the readings.
- Continue decontamination efforts until no more contamination is detected or until the skin starts to become irritated. You do not want to scrub your skin with anything rough or harsh. Rough utensils such as a scouring pad will only irritate the skin possibly causing redness, soreness, abrasions and bleeding which may possibly cause the contamination to further penetrate the skin.
- Please note that contamination to the skin can be avoided with good lab practices as well as utilizing the appropriate personal protective equipment such as lab coat, gloves, etc.

Clothing

- Remove contaminated items immediately.
- Monitor the skin under the contaminated clothing.
- If skin is contaminated, start decontamination effort immediately.
- Place items in a bag and label with the name, date, isotope and the count rate.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Officer.

Eye

- Immediately flush eye with water.
- Report to Fronske Health Center. Advise Fronske Health Center that your eye may be contaminated with radioactive material.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Officer.

Injuries

- Serious (heavy bleeding, heart attack)
- Do not attempt to decontaminate victim.
- Dial 33000; let emergency personnel know there may be radioactive contamination present.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Officer as soon as possible.

- Minor (puncture wound or cut)
- Decontaminate area with soap and luke-warm water.
- Report to Campus Health Services located in the Health and Learning Center on north campus. Advise Campus Health Services that the wound may be contaminated with radioactive material.
- Notify the Radiation Safety Officer as soon as possible.