

Emergency Response Guidelines

All laboratories are required to have an emergency response plan for the hazardous gases they use. These plans should outline what should be done should an uncontrolled release of a gas occur. The severity of the release will be determined by the following factors:

- Amount of local and general exhaust in location
- Types of controls in place
- Gas concentrations and warning properties of the released gas

Most leaks occur at the valve and valve stem fitted on the top of the cylinder. Leakage here is frequently due to dirt in the connection, damaged connections or washers where required. Such leaks are easily rectified, attempt to tighten the connection

Uncontrolled Release

Once a highly toxic or toxic gas has been released the user should be able to determine if the flow can be shut off safely either by using an emergency shutoff button or by manually closing the shutoff valve. If this is not possible, the following general actions should be taken:

1. Activate the fire alarm – evacuate building and local area of release (laboratory), turn off all ignition sources (if time permits), evacuate the area immediately and close the door.
2. Barricade or seal off the local area of release (place signs and caution tape)
3. Call UCPD on a **campus phone** @ 9-911 to arrange for medical attention for exposed personnel and to report the incident, identify where and what has happened. Authorized personnel will provide the scene control of the release area.
4. Call Facilities (951) 827-4214 for assistance in placing the requested building on 100% fresh air.
5. Obtain SDS and follow emergency release instructions – unless the specific emergency response plan developed by the lab is more detailed and appropriate

Once the area is evacuated and isolated, only trained Emergency Response Personnel with proper PPE and monitoring equipment will be authorized to enter the release area.

Personnel Exposure

If there is a personnel exposure, the first aid actions on your emergency release procedure should be followed. The basic treatment for any exposure is:

- In the event of personnel skin contamination, wash with soap and water and remove contaminated clothing.
- In the event of personnel eye contamination immediately flush the exposed area using an eye wash or water for 15 minutes.
- In the event of personnel exposure via inhalation, remove to fresh air
- The specific actions and order will be determined by your specific emergency procedure

NOTE: When medical attention is needed, the SDS sheet for the toxic or highly toxic gas should be brought to the hospital to assist in treatment. Please also inform EHS (951-827-5528) about exposure