

# CHEMICAL SPILL

- Chemical spills are common in laboratories and sometimes can be hazardous.
- Chemical spills can be prevented by keeping the work bench clean and clear from clutter.
- Prior to using a chemical, evaluate the potential consequences of a spill and prepare for the appropriate response. If a spill is large, contact EHS immediately.
- A simple spill is one that does not spread quickly and does not endanger people by direct contact.
- Typical laboratory spills involve small quantities of materials and are able to be cleaned properly using absorbent materials.

## Contents of simple spill kit:

- Appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves, lab coats, and goggles.
- Absorbent materials suitable for organic solvents, absorbent spill pads
- Plastic dust pan and broom
- Proper neutralizers.

## Spill response/Disposal:

- First response after a chemical spill is to communicate with colleagues around you and to find help for the appropriate cleaning/handling.
- Evaluate the risks, spill quantity, and potential impact.
- In case of spill of volatile solvent or powder dust, close the lab door to prevent rapid spread of toxic vapors or dust to other areas and to increase ventilation in the room.
- Carefully neutralize acid spills with sodium bicarbonate or soda ash, and base spills with citric acid or ascorbic acid. The neutralized material can be collected in a bucket or bag and disposed properly.

