
CODE BROWN – Chemical Spill

Approved by: JOHSC**Effective Date:** June 8, 2017

EP-02

Issued By: Administration**Revision Date:** Sept. 25, 2025**Department(s)** All

POLICY

Lennox & Addington County General Hospital (“LACGH”) is committed to the health and safety of all staff, patients, residents and visitors. “**CODE BROWN**” will be initiated in response to a spill of hazardous materials throughout the organization.

In the event of water flooding that is either internal or external in nature, staff should initiate Code AQUA EP- XXX

PURPOSE

To ensure that LACGH remains a safe environment through a timely and effective emergency response to a spill of hazardous materials.

NOTICE

Please be advised that Emergency Preparedness Code Processes apply to Lennox and Addington County General Hospital proper. Therefore, not all steps in Emergency Preparedness Codes are necessarily applicable to programs, clinics and departments located in Lenadco Building, or Westdale Complex (“the Outbuildings”). Please refer to program, clinic, or department specific internal Emergency Preparedness procedures for further guidance as the case may be.

PROCEDURE:

1. Evacuate patients/residents, visitors and staff from area of spill.
2. Close all doors to confine any potential fumes.
3. Dial “781” and, at the tone, Page “**CODE BROWN**” and the location of the spill three (3) times over the PA system.

DEFINITIONS:

Spill: A discharge of material to air, land or water or a chemical that has escaped its means of containment that could have an adverse effect on safety, health and/or the environment. Hazardous material spills are categorized as either major or minor.

Internal Water Flooding: A discharge of water that has escaped its means of containment that could have an adverse effect on safety, health and/or the environment. Activate Code AQUA EP-XXX.

Major Spill: A spill in excess of 1 L or 1 KG OR small amounts that could pose a danger to the safety and health of people in the vicinity of the spill OR spills where the hazardous

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potential of the spill is unknown. This type of spill requires external assistance from the Hazardous Unit of the Fire Department.

Minor Spill: A spill of less than 1 L or 1 kg that does not pose a danger to safety and health. This type of spill can be managed internally by trained staff.

STAFF RESPONDING TO SPILL:

1. Employee of the area of the spill.
2. Housekeeping with “Spills Cart” located in the corridor outside the laboratory department.
3. Nursing Manager (if in a patient/resident care area)
4. Maintenance
5. Employee Health Nurse

RESPONSE:

Level 1: Department Response	Level 2: Code Brown Team Response	Level 3: External Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill is small in volume • Spill can be cleaned up with water or disinfectant • Can be handled by department/unit staff • Poses no threat of irritation • Housekeeping can be contacted for assistance, if necessary. • DO NOT CALL A CODE BROWN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill is generally larger in volume • Spill is hazardous or unidentifiable • Spill requires special clean up procedures • Cannot be handled by department/unit staff • May require evacuation of the immediate spill/release area • CALL A CODE BROWN LEVEL II 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill is considered a health, fire, and/or environmental hazard • Safe clean up requires respiratory equipment to be worn • Requires evacuation beyond the immediate spill area • CALL A CODE BROWN LEVEL III – FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL BE CALLED

CHEMICAL SPILL

1. Advise staff without PPE not to enter the area.

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2. Upon arrival of Spills Cart, staff will put on appropriate PPE and begin the clean-up in accordance with MSDS instruction. Housekeeping will rinse area as directed on MSDS.
3. Mops and towels should be double bagged and disposed of as directed by Environmental Services' Manager. Maintenance will address ventilation needs.

EVACUATION:

All persons in the area of the spill must be evacuated and entry restricted to those wearing appropriate PPE . Evacuate horizontally to adjacent areas.

RESPONSIBILITY**Employee**

- 1) Understand and follow the safe use and handling of hazardous products.
- 2) Know the location of the MSDS manual in the Department.
- 3) Ensure PPE is worn as identified in the MSDS.
- 4) Advise your supervisor of any deficiencies or defects in any of the equipment or protective devices.
- 5) Complete an Emergency Response Form #423.

Environmental Services Worker

- 1) Bring the "Spills Cart" located in the corridor outside the Laboratory department to the site of the spill.
- 2) Assist in clean up as directed using appropriate PPE as identified in the MSDS.
- 3) Maintain the "Spills Cart" inventory.
- 4) Ensure the Environmental Services' Manager is informed of items used and requiring replacement.
- 5) Dispose of contained spill materials according to the direction provided by the Environmental Services' Manager

Supervisor

- 1) Report to spills location to provide support in clean-up efforts ensuring the safety of patients/residents, staff and visitors.
- 2) Ensure PPE is available and the employees are trained in its use.
- 3) Ensure training and regular review of WHMIS and "**CODE BROWN**" action.
- 4) Ensure MSDS are filed appropriately and that employees are aware of changes.

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- 5) Ensure Emergency Response Report form #423 has been completed.

Maintenance

- 1) Report to spill area to address ventilation needs, post recovery operations if needed, and answer questions.

Environmental Services' Manager

- 1) Ensure waste disposal guidelines meet local, provincial and federal regulations.
- 2) Ensure "Spills Cart" inventory is checked regularly and restocked after use.

Stores Clerk

- 1) Ensure hazardous products do not enter the workplace without an MSDS.
- 2) Ensure MSDS are up-to-date and distributed to appropriate Departments.
- 3) Ensure WHMIS/MSDS manuals are maintained according to Occupational Health and Safety Standards.

Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness

- 1) Follow-up with affected staff as necessary to ensure health care needs are met.
- 2) Complete WSIB forms as needed.
- 3) Liaise with Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development if required under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

DOCUMENTATION:

- 1) Emergency Response Report form #423 to be completed by staff member of area directly involved by the spill.
- 2) WSIB form and employee incident to be completed if any individual suffered an ill effect as a consequence of the spill.

AFTER ACTION ASSESSMENT and RECOVERY

The response to the incident will be reviewed for continuous quality improvement. Participants will include all members of the response team, the Materials Management, the Environmental Services Supervisor, the Facilities and Maintenance Manager and the most responsible person in the affected Department. Affected staff to be referred to EAP as required. All consumables used during the response to be replenished.



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