
Spill Response

Large

and

Small

Priority Mercury Spills

- **Mercury and a heat source**
- **Young children; pregnant women**
- **Unknown or larger amount of mercury**
- **Large number of people involved**
- **Historic spills – possible long-term exposures**



Assessment

- **Where did it happen?**
 - Home or Public place?
 - Bedroom or basement?
 - Storage shed or hospital room?
 - **Who are the people affected?**
 - Sensitive population (children and pregnant women)
 - Adults, occupational workers?
 - **When did this happen or when did you find it?**
 - Unknown?
 - Where is the person who witnessed it?
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Assessment

- **How much - the amount -container?**
 - **Common items:**
 - **Compact fluorescent bulb** .005 g
 - **Fever Thermometer** .5 g – 1 g
 - **Thermostat** 3 g
 - **Sphygmomanometers** 110 to 200 g
 - **Ask the container and the fullness prior to the spill.**
 - **What has been done to contain or cleanup?**
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Assessment

- Who needs to know (now)?
 - Where did it come from – is there more?
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Actions for the First Responder

- Restrict access to the area
- Remove people and pets safely, leave contaminated items behind
- Isolate HVAC, block return vents
- Lower the temperature in the room if possible



Actions, continued

- Cover spill with plastic sheeting.
- Ventilate vapors to the outdoors
- Notify the local health department
- Report 1lb. or more to NRC, LEPC, PEAS



What the data means

Occupational Standards

Regulatory

- IDLH 10,000 ug/m³
- NIOSH TWA 50 ug/m³

Non-Occupational Starting Point Guidance

- Evacuation > 10 ug/m³
- Commercial < 3 ug/m³*
- Residential < 1 ug/m³*

- * After cleanup, ventilation, and stabilization
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Additional Questions, Comments?

