West Valley - Mission
Community College District

Emergency Preparedness & Response Guidelines

CHEMICAL SPILLS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

IF YOU WITNESS A SPILL

- ✓ Warn others and call 9-1-1*
- ✓ Keep people away - Stay uphill, upwind and upstream at least 500 feet
- ✓ Cover your nose and mouth with an N95 mask or layers of cloth
- ✓ Isolate the spill/limit spread if you can do it safely. Close doors if applicable.
- ✓ Note any suspicious activity that would indicate an intentional release
- ✓ Evacuate if necessary

DO NOT LEAVE THE SCENE UNTIL YOU CONFIRM YOU ARE NOT CONTAMINATED

*Information to provide to the 9-1-1 dispatcher

- Exact location of the spill
- Identify the material by:
  - Name
  - Description (color, solid, liquid)
  - Odor
  - Types of injuries it caused
- Quantity spilled, if known
- MSDS information if available - Send MSDS (Materials Safety Data Sheets to the hospital with the ambulance)

SIGNS OF CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL EXPOSURE

Sudden onset of symptoms:

- Blistered skin
- Breathing difficulties
- Burning eyes, throat, skin
- Coughing
- **Many people with similar symptoms**
- Nausea, Vomiting

Note: Some exposures have delayed symptoms

DID PEOPLE COME IN CONTACT WITH THE MATERIAL?

- Encourage them to rinse the contaminated areas with water for 15 minutes
- Rinse eyes immediately pouring water from inner to outer corner of eye
- Remove contaminated clothing (avoid pulling off clothes over the head because of possible chemical exposure to eyes, nose and mouth) and put in a bag

RADIATION

- Limit the time you are exposed
- Wash with soap and water to remove radiation from your skin
- Stay as far away from the radiation as possible
- Keep walls or other barriers between you and the source
- For radiation explosion, drop, cover and hold on below ground level, if possible with as much shielding as possible