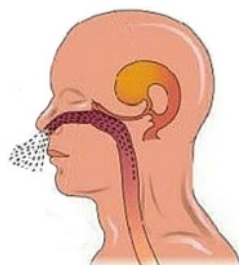


Chemical hazards and toxic substances pose a wide range of health and physical risks.

Understanding the chemicals, their concentrations, where they are stored and how they are used are imperative to ensuring workplace safety.

1. Inhalation (breathing in)

Irritation of the respiratory tract and the lungs.



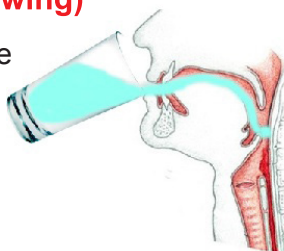
2. Absorption (through the skin or eyes)

The hands and eyes are the body part most likely to be contaminated by pesticides and chemical spills the most frequent results to severe injuries.



3. Ingestion (eating, swallowing)

Dangerous chemicals include household products like bleach, which can poison or burn the body if swallowed.



4. Injection

Injection can occur due to needle pricks, broken glasses.

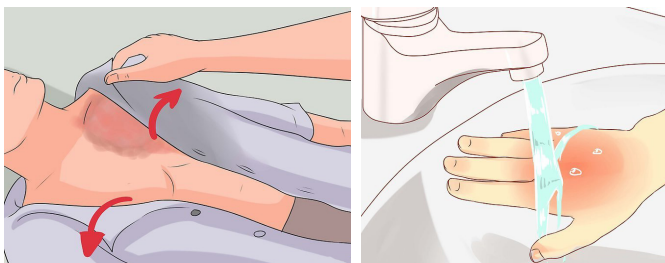
Chemical may be transported through the blood stream to all parts of the body. This effect can be fatal.

How chemicals affect us?

A substance may have acute and chronic effects, and may result in permanent injury.

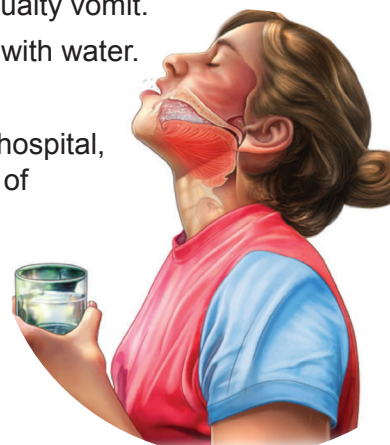
Fist Aid In Case of Skin Contact:

1. Drench the affected area with clean running water for at least 15-20 minutes and until no chemical remains in contact with the skin.
2. Remove contaminated clothing, which is not stuck to the skin, as soon as practicable after commencement of washing.
3. If there is any injury cover with clean, non-fluffy material to protect from infection and, or if skin absorption is suspected, transfer casualty to hospital.



Ingestion

1. Do not make the casualty vomit.
2. Wash out the mouth with water.
3. Reassure casualty.
4. Transfer casualty to hospital, take along container of chemical.



Decontamination of the EYES



When dealing with eye contamination, the aim is to disperse and dilute the chemical.

1. Check the eyewash packaging seal is not broken and expiry date.
2. In no eyewash available, flush the eye with clean running water for at least 10 minutes.
3. Call the **Emergency Medical Service**.
4. Obtain medical examination of the affected eye.

Decontamination of the Body

1. Remove contaminated clothing. Use scissors, unless contaminated clothing is sticking to victim's skin.
2. If victim is conscious, assist into emergency shower.
3. If victim is unconscious, wash on the spot.
4. Call the **Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service and the Emergency Medical Service**.



9 Classification of Hazards



CLASS 1
Explosives



CLASS 2
Flammable Gases
Non-Flammable Gases



CLASS 3
Flammable Liquids



CLASS 4
Flammable solids



CLASS 5
Dangerous when wet



CLASS 6
Poison



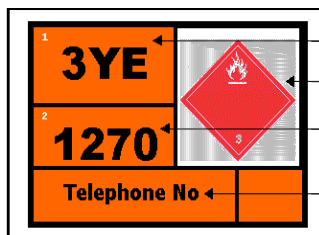
CLASS 7
Radioactive



CLASS 8
Corrosive



CLASS 9
Miscellaneous dangerous substances



Emergency Action Code

Hazard Warning Diamond

UN Substance Identification Number

Contact Telephone Number for Specialist Advice

Handling Chemical Safely

1. Handling chemicals safely will reduce the risk of accidents involving them. Personnel in charge of chemicals must be familiar with regulations on how to handle chemicals properly.
2. The proper Personnel Protective equipment (PPE) needed for handling chemical, such as gloves and mask must always be available.
3. Material safety data sheet (MSDS) must be readily available for all chemical on a work site.
4. Chemicals should be stored in the appropriate containers and designated storage spaces.
5. Proper transport should be provided for chemicals inside and outside the workplace
6. All personnel in the workplace should be properly trained on what to do in case of chemical spill.

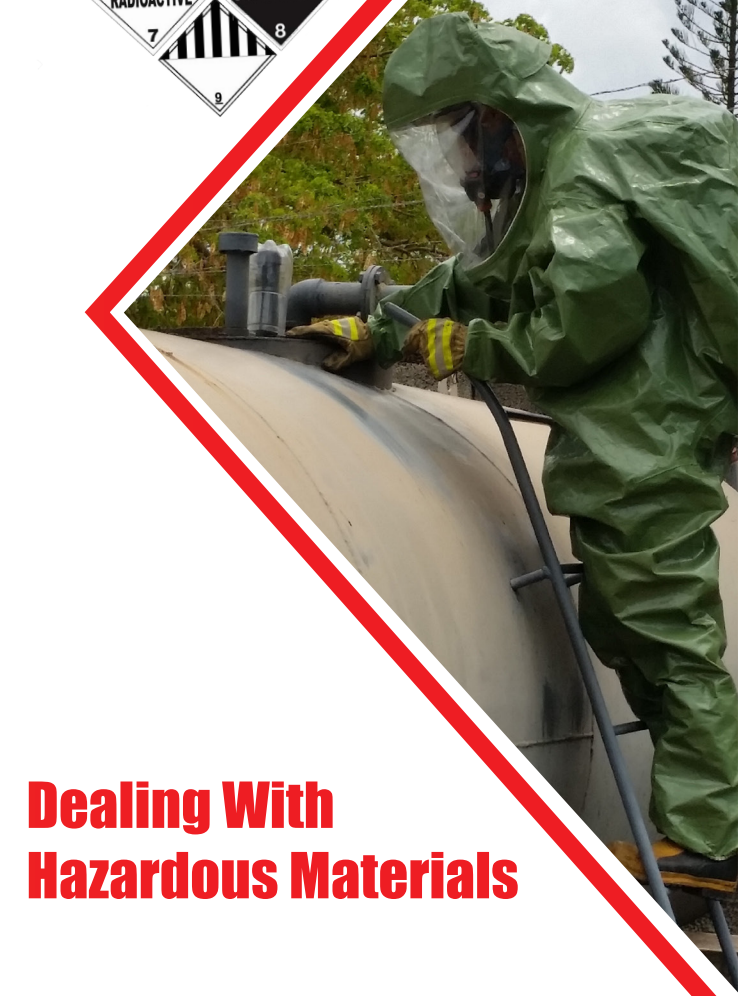


Dealing with Chemical Spillage

1. Make sure that everyone is safe. Evacuate the area to a safe distance, uphill and upwind.
2. Identify the chemicals involved in the spillage - note the hazard identification number.
3. Use adsorbant pad to contain a chemical spill, and protect the environment.
4. Remove any casualty if safe to do so, or else call the Fire and Rescue Service.



MAURITIUS FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE



Dealing With Hazardous Materials

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

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Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service

14, Deschartes Street, Port Louis, Mauritius

Tel : 212 0214 / Fax : 208 3875 / Email : gfs@govmu.org