



Mercury Spill Notifications

SITUATION:

There will be times when the DEMHS Watch Officer will receive a call to report a mercury spill. This protocol describes a coordinated state-wide mercury response.

DEMHS Watch Officer guidelines:

1. Call Response

A. Call Received by DEMHS Duty Officer

All calls received by DEMHS Duty Officer will be routed to the VHMRT on-call crew chief. Based on the information provided by the caller, the crew chief will determine the size of the spill or breakage.

Large Spill or Multiple Florescent or CFL Bulb Breakage

The VHMRT on-call crew chief will deploy necessary response by VHMRT to contain the spill. The response will include real time air monitoring throughout the response.

VHMRT will notify DEMHS Watch Officer, who will in turn notify VDH Director of Emergency Services and DEC Spill team of the reported spill. DEC and VDH may be requested to provide appropriate clean up and occupancy recommendations. DEMHS Watch Officer will advise DEMHS Director's office accordingly – especially if the VHMRT deploys.

Generally, if it is determined that a large spill has occurred, occupants of building should be evacuated from building or functional space. If spill occurs outside, an area of 150 feet or 50 meters radius around the spill should be evacuated, and initial downwind evacuation should be 330 feet or 100 meters. Event specific recommendations will be made by VHMRT.

Small Spill or Single fluorescent or CFL bulb

If it is determined that a small spill or breakage of a single fluorescent or CFL has occurred, the VHMRT crew chief will provide the caller with appropriate self-clean up guidance and mercury spill fact sheets for cleanup of small amounts of mercury.

VHMRT crew chief will notify DEMHS Watch Officer, who will in turn notify VDH Director of Emergency Services and DEC spill team of the call. VDH will follow-up with the caller to provide any additional outreach or guidance.

B. Calls received by Vermont Department of Health

Large Spill or Multiple Florescent or CFL Bulb Breakage

All initial large spill calls must be immediately reported to the DEMHS Watch Officer: 800-347-0488.

DEMHS Watch Officer will relay the call to the VHMRT on-call crew chief. VDH may provide initial response guidance. Occupants of building should be evacuated from building or functional space. If spill occurs outside, an area of 150 feet or 50 meters radius around the spill should be evacuated and initial downwind evacuation should be 330 feet or 100 meters.

Small Spill or Single Fluorescent or CFL bulb

VDH will provide the caller with appropriate self-clean up guidance and mercury spill fact sheets for cleanup of small amounts of mercury. VDH will send email to VHMRT crew chief, the DEC spill team and the DEMHS Watch Officer as a courtesy.

C. Call Received by DEC Spill Team

Large Spill or Multiple Florescent or CFL Bulb Breakage

All initial large spill calls must be immediately reported to the DEMHS Watch Officer: 800-347-0488.

DEMHS Watch Officer will relay the call to the VHMRT on-call crew chief. DEC Spill Team may be requested to provide cleanup guidance and support when a spill must be decontaminated by a contracted company.

Small Spill or Single Fluorescent or CFL bulb

DEC Spill team will provide the caller with appropriate self-clean up guidance and mercury spill fact sheets for cleanup of small amounts of mercury. DEC will notify the VHMRT crew chief, DEMHS Watch Officer and VDH staff regarding the reported spill. VDH will follow up with the caller to provide VDH will follow-up with the caller to provide any additional outreach or guidance.

D. Recording Information

The DEMHS Watch Officer will record all information to the DLAN State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) as a ticket.

2. Spill Categories

Large

For the purpose of this document a large spill will include anything larger than the quantity of mercury inside a typical household thermometer or thermostat.

Any spill larger than one pound (About two tablespoons) of liquid or elemental mercury must also be reported to the National Response Center (NRC). The NRC hotline operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: (800) 424-8802. The DEC Spill Team will be responsible for ensuring notification to the NRC.

Small

Small quantity spill would include a broken household thermometer, broken household thermostat or similar quantity.

Single Fluorescent or CFL Bulb

A single fluorescent or CFL bulb can contain approximately 5mg of mercury. This is about 100 times less than a household fever thermometer.

Multiple Florescent or CFL Bulb

If many bulbs break at one time, it is possible that a larger quantity of mercury would be released. This would typically occur in an industrial, institutional or retail setting. This type event could contaminate a large area of a school or other institutional setting where sensitive populations are located.

3. Workplace Mercury Spills

For workplace related incidents where a fatality or 3 or more employees are transported to the hospital, the DEMHS Watch Officer will contact Vermont Department of Labor: 1-800-287-2765 or by contacting a 24-hour toll-free Hotline at 1-800-321-OSHA. The DEMHS Watch Officer will obtain this information from the VHMRT or the DEC Spill Team.

4. Air Monitoring for Mercury

VHMRT has the capability to perform real time air monitoring for mercury vapors. All requests for this capability shall be initiated through the DEMHS Watch Officer or VHMRT Crew Chief.

5. Contacts

<u>DEMHS</u>			
	<u>Watch Officer</u>	<u>800-347-0488</u>	
<u>VHMRT</u>			
	<u>On-call Crew Chief</u>	<u>800-641-5005</u>	VHMRTchiefs@googlegroups.com
	<u>Team Chief -</u>	<u>802-839-0660</u>	
<u>DEC Spill Response Team</u>	<u>Office Hours Reporting</u>	<u>802-828-1138</u>	
	<u>24 Hour Reporting</u>	<u>800-641-5005</u>	
	<u>Haz. Materials: Tim Cropley</u>	<u>802-249-5346</u>	Tim.Cropley@vermont.gov
<u>VDH Env. Health</u>	<u>Office Hours Reporting</u>	<u>800-439-8550</u>	
	<u>State Toxicologist: Sarah Vose</u>	<u>802-863-7598</u>	sarah.vose@vermont.gov
	<u>Rad. Tox. Analyst:</u>		
	<u>Off- hours Duty Officer</u>	<u>800-640-4374</u>	
	<u>Director of Emergency Services</u>	<u>802-316-0448</u>	
<u>VOSHA</u>		<u>1-800-287-2765</u>	
	<u>OSHA 24 Hour Contact</u>	<u>1-800-321-OSHA.</u>	

6. Outreach material and fact sheets.

CFL Breakage Factsheet:

[http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/indoor air/documents/CFLampFactSheet.pdf](http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/indoor_air/documents/CFLampFactSheet.pdf)

Small Spill Cleanup Fact Sheet:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/mercury/PDF/mercuryspillfactsheet.pdf>