

INCIDENT DATE: February, 2012 **SUBJECT:** Chemical Spill**Background / Incident Details – Photo's are Attached below:**

A chemical spill occurred on the loading dock of the HSC basement, near the shipping and receiving area. The spill occurred during the transportation of chemicals through the building inside containers inappropriately identified as biohazardous waste. Containers were inappropriately stacked on top of each other on a flat cart to a height of approximately 5 ft. The containers were not properly sealed. As the cart was moving through the hallway it hit a corner and the containers fell to the floor. The glass bottles inside, which included solvents listed as carcinogenic liquids, broke spilling 5 to 10 litres of solvent and spreading glass fragments across the floor. The spill was immediately reported and cleaned up shortly afterwards.

The result of this incident identified the inappropriate transportation of hazardous materials.

Injuries:

No injuries occurred as a result of this incident. As the chemical spill took place in a well ventilated area of the loading dock, fumes from the spill were quickly dispersed and as a result no health issues were identified.

Equipment Damage:

There was no equipment damage other than to the containers themselves. The floor and other affected areas were decontaminated and cleaned.

Immediate Cause:

Inappropriate transport including use of inadequate containment were contributory factors to the spill. It was identified that a non-University waste disposal service was used by the laboratory requiring removal of the waste.

Recommendations to Prevent Recurrence and be in compliance with Regulations and Standards:

1. The University and all laboratories must transport all hazardous waste as per University policy, regulation and instructions.
2. The University and all laboratories must appropriately label all hazardous waste as biohazardous, chemical or radioactive.
3. Laboratories must ensure all waste is disposed of by the appropriate service. Consult Environment Health and Safety by emailing: (ucsafety@ucalgary.ca) with any questions.
4. Laboratories must ensure all Hazardous Waste buckets are sealed by placing the lid on top and closing fully. This provides a full seal and no leakage will occur if tipped or dropped.
5. Laboratories staff and Researchers should reference their Laboratory Safety Manuals, Biosafety Manuals and Radiation Safety Manuals regarding the transportation of hazardous materials specific to the University of Calgary.
6. All laboratories should reference their "Spill Response Procedure" and the "Emergency Response Plan" for the correct procedure on communication and clean up of all spills, and correct use of Personal Protective Equipment.

