



SAFETY AT WORK INSTRUCTIONS

HANDLING A SMALL MERCURY SPILL

- Small spill – broken thermometer or mercury waste up to 2 cm³
- The lab workers or a professional shall handle this spill
- In case of a large mercury spill, contact the Safety Unit for help at (04-829-) 2146/7

Proceed as follows:

1. Have everyone else leave the place, open room windows and ventilate the place
2. Block the entry to the lab with a sign "DO NOT ENTER – MERCURY SPILL"
3. The spill must be handled by two workers
4. Wear personal protective equipment that includes gloves and boots.
5. Carefully collect broken glass with a shovel/ tongs/ spatula/ wiper and place them in a plastic container for waste disposal, label the container as mercury waste.
6. Collect the mercury with a Pasteur pipette or similar or with a broom wrapped in a plastic bag.
7. Place the collected mercury in a plastic or glass container, close and write clearly "Mercury Waste" and place it a second container until its disposal as chemical waste.
8. Equipment used for collecting the spill must be placed in a bin marked "Mercury Waste" (same as any other chemical waste at the Technion)
9. Inspect carefully the area for the presence of mercury remains on the floor
10. Do not discard waste or parts of it into the sink or into a regular trash bin
11. Wash hands thoroughly with water and soap on cleanup completion, after removing the gloves.
12. On cleanup completion report incident details to lab manager and Safety Unit.

DO NOTHING THAT MIGHT ENDANGER YOU OR OTHER PERSONS

IN EMERGENCY, CALL 2222 FROM ANY INTERNAL EXTENSION