HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INCIDENTS

What are hazardous materials?
Hazardous materials are chemicals and products that are capable of adversely impacting human health and/or the environment if used improperly, accidentally spilled, or released. In addition to laboratory chemicals, hazardous materials may include common materials such as paints, fuels, and solvents.

What should I do if there is a small spill that does not involve highly toxic or noxious hazardous materials, a fire, or an injury requiring medical attention beyond basic first aid?
- If you are properly trained to respond, fully understand the hazards posed by the substance that has spilled, have appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and an appropriate spill kit, and can respond without endangering yourself or others, you may proceed with cleanup.
- DON appropriate PPE, which may include gloves, eye protection, and other protective clothing;
- USE the supplies in your spill kit to absorb/neutralize/contain the spill;
- PLACE cleanup materials, debris, and contaminated PPE in a compatible waste container;
- CLOSE the container, label it “Hazardous Waste” and specify the type of chemical(s) in the container;
Follow customary waste pickup procedures - call EH&S (561) 297-3129 or use the online waste pickup form: http://www.fau.edu/facilities/ehs/new-waste-form.php.

What should I do if there is a large spill, or a spill that involves highly toxic or noxious hazardous materials, or involves an injury requiring medical attention beyond basic first aid, or if you lack the supplies or training to safely respond?
- If it is necessary to EVACUATE, move to a safe location, closing doors behind you, but stay in the general vicinity until help arrives so you can warn anyone who might try to unknowingly enter the area;
  - If you need to evacuate the entire building, pull the fire alarm.
- SEEK further assistance by calling the appropriate number below:
  - Call 911 immediately for all:
    ▪ Fires
    ▪ Accidents or spills involving injuries that require medical attention beyond first aid.
  - Call EH&S at 561-297-3129 during normal business hours for all:
    ▪ Accidents or spills that do not result in injuries requiring medical attention beyond basic first aid.
  - Call the University Police at 561-297-3500 after normal business hours.
- FOLLOW up, always, with EH&S, regardless of whom you call first.

What information do I need to have readily available when reporting a spill?
- Your name and incident location.
- Details of the incident including:
  - The type of incident, for example: chemical spill, gas leak, environmental release;
  - The approximate quantity of hazardous material involved;
  - The location and time when the incident occurred;
  - The extent of injuries (eye contact, inhalation, burns, etc.) and/or property damage;
  - Any other details you feel are pertinent to help emergency responders.

What should I do if I work with work with, ship, or receive hazardous materials?
You must comply with strict local, state, and federal regulations. These regulations contain requirements for hazardous material inventories, training, and proper waste disposal. Regulations also define hazardous material groups to include, but are not limited to the following:

Poison/Toxic Explosive Biohazardous Corrosive
Flammable/Combustible Reactive Radioactive

For more information visit the EH&S website http://www.fau.edu/facilities/ehs or call 561-297-3129.