

For Spills of Metallic Mercury Greater Than a Teaspoon (5 cc)

- Emergency response personnel should follow these guidelines to prevent unnecessary exposure to those involved in the incident.
- This protocol is divided into two areas: people and buildings. While both are important, the goal of this protocol is to provide clearance of both the people and building involved so the people can leave the area.

People Issues:

1. Anyone involved with **heated** mercury must be evaluated by a physician.
2. Identify those who came into **direct** contact with the mercury, either on the skin or on clothes. Those with no direct contact can be considered not contaminated.
3. If a mercury vapor analyzer is available, check the clothes of those who came into direct contact. If vapor readings exceed 5 mcg/m³, confiscate the article of clothing, except shoes.
4. If no mercury vapor analyzer is available, confiscate clothing (except shoes) of those who had direct contact.
5. Identify those who had significant breathing zone exposure. People exposed for > 8 hours should be referred to a physician for a mercury screening.
6. Those who had skin exposure only (on the hands, etc.) should wash the area at least three times with hand soap. Once complete, that person is considered decontaminated.

Building Issues:

1. If the spill occurred outside, restrict access to the area. Have the area evaluated by a clean-up contractor.
2. Determine the breathing zone of the room occupants.
3. Locate and decontaminate the spill site.
4. Re-evaluate the breathing zone after decontamination until a clearance level below 4 mcg/m³ is obtained.
5. Dispose of mercury containing materials in accordance with appropriate regulations.