

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL  
FORMALIN SPILL PROCEDURE**

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**PRINCIPLE:** Spill-X-FP\* Formaldehyde Polymerizer is used for the purpose of controlling formalin spills and their vapors. This is a dry chemical that reacts with formalin to form a polynoxylin polymer. Proper spill treatment of 15-37% formalin solution yields a solid residue. Initiation of treatment is evidenced by a cloudy appearance of the formalin within 1-5 minutes of agent application. In cases where formalin solution strength is less than 15, solidification is slow or will not occur, although polymerization and vapor reduction is complete.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Evacuate personnel in the area. Restrict persons not wearing protective equipment from the area until clean up is complete.
2. Don protective gear – shielded mask, gown and gloves.
3. Sprinkle the spill with **SPILL-X-FP located in the Spill Control Kit in the Safety Cabinet in Specimen Processing** and let it be absorbed 5-10 minutes.
4. Remove all ignition sources. Do not turn on/off anything that may emit a spark.
5. Close doors to contain vapors.
6. Call Environmental Services to containerize all absorbent material in a double plastic bag.
7. Seal and label “Hazardous Waste.”
8. Complete Incident Report and submit to Manager.
9. Report will be sent to Risk Management and Safety Committee.

\*The Material Safety Data Sheet for this product is located in the MSDS binder on the shelf opposite the Chemistry Department or found in the online MSDS.