

## **Guide for Custodians or Maintenance Personnel Working in Areas Where Radioactive Materials are Used**

Under normal conditions, entry into a radioactive materials laboratory for housekeeping duties does not present a hazard. Such employees do not require film badges since their duties do not involve working directly with radioactive material. The following set of rules should be observed at all times:

1. Obey all cautionary signs. They mean what they say.
2. Report any unusual event, such as spilled material from a container labeled with a radioactive material sticker, a radioactive materials storage freezer with power is defrosting, etc. These situations, if left unchecked, could develop into a more serious problem.
3. Report the incident to your supervisor and the lab director and then to the Radiation Safety Officer, Marilyn Cameron at 4463. After hours, call 494-8080 or 490-8893.
4. Before working on items suspected of being contaminated with radioactive material, make sure Radiation Safety has surveyed and approved the area. Examples are changing the light bulbs in the fume hood, working on the plumbing in a lab sink, fixing a refrigerator, water bath, etc., which are used for radioactive materials.
5. Do not handle items that are labeled with a Radioactive Caution sign. These items may be contaminated with radioactive material.
6. Do not handle or empty radioactive waste containers. They must be disposed of properly and cannot be released to normal trash.
7. Do not dust or clean radioactive material workstations. Unless specifically requested to do, no housekeeping activities should be performed in radioactive work areas; doing so may cause spread of radioactive contamination.
8. DO NOT attempt to clean up a radioactive spill. Only trained individuals with the proper protective clothing should attempt to clean a radioactive spill. If not monitored with special equipment, contamination could spread to other areas.
9. If you accidentally become contaminated with radioactive materials, stay calm. Wash off with soap and water. Remove any contaminated clothing. Minimize movement to prevent further spread of the material. Stay near the area, do not walk around. Have someone else call for help. Do not eat, drink, or smoke. Avoid contacting your eyes, nose, mouth, or any open wounds. DO NOT leave the area until cleared by Radiation Safety.