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Gallant Builders has implemented this safety program to prepare for environmental emergencies in the workplace

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to maintain a high level of responsiveness to environmental emergency situations.

II. APPLICABILITY

This program applies to all Gallant employees, properties and worksites.

III. REQUIREMENTS

During the course of normal business operations, there is always the potential for an emergency situation to arise. These emergencies can be the result of a chemical spill, fire, or the need for medical assistance. Internal communication is very important during any emergency situation. It is essential that all employees know how to react during the emergency.

The range and quantity of hazardous substances used on job sites require planning to respond safely to chemicals spills. Spills involving hazardous materials will require different tactics depending on the magnitude of the spill, the material's toxicity, reactivity, and flammability, routes of entry of the material into the body, and the promptness with which the spill can be safely managed.

IV. SPILL PREVENTION

The best way to address a spill is to prevent it from happening in the first place. Many spills can be prevented or controlled by careful planning and proper use of safety equipment and procedures. Precautionary measures to prevent spills include the following:

1. Caps and covers for containers should be securely in place whenever the container is not in immediate use.
2. Utilize a compatible/suitable container for chemicals and wastes collected in other than the original container. In instances of corrosive wastes, the use of metal containers is often unsuitable, even if the solvents were originally shipped in metal containers. See the SDS for specific information.
3. Weekly container inspection can prevent leakage from spills due to improper chemical containers. Containers of all types should be free of rust, deformation, and any sign of chemical leakage.
4. Allow only limited quantities of chemicals and solvents to be stored on site.
5. Employees should use the proper technique in transporting and handling hazardous materials.

V. SPILL CLEAN-UP

MINOR CHEMICAL SPILLS

Minor spills are defined as small chemical leaks that usually are detected early and present no immediate danger to personnel or to the environment. As a general rule, spills of 3 gallons or less will be considered a minor spill, depending on the chemical(s) involved. Spills of highly toxic, reactive, highly volatile or corrosive materials less than 1gallon should generally be considered a minor spill. These spills can be safely corrected with the advice of the Safety Director. General procedures are as follows:

1. Do not panic but react quickly. Spills must be addressed immediately.
2. Never assume gases or vapors do not exist or are harmless because of lack of smell.
3. Do not touch the spill without protective clothing.
4. Notify nearby persons and evacuate as necessary. Protect yourself and then remove any injured person(s) to a safe place, if safe to do so.
5. If personnel are contaminated, remove contaminated clothing. Flush skin/eyes with water at least 15 minutes (up to 30 minutes is highly recommended); use soap for intermediate and final cleaning on skin areas. Forcibly hold eyelids open to ensure effective wash under eyelids. Make sure chemicals have not accumulated in shoes. Obtain medical attention for the victim.
6. Identify or characterize the substance(s) involved. Refer to the SDS for spill clean-up procedures.
7. Where the spill does not present immediate personal danger, try to control the spread or volume of the spill. This could mean shutting a door, moving nearby equipment to prevent further contamination, repositioning an overturned container or one that has a hole in the bottom or side, or creating a dike by putting an absorbent around the spill.
8. If the vapors are non-toxic, increase the ventilation. Exterior doors may be opened to ventilate non-toxic vapors.
9. If flammable vapors are involved, turn off ignition and heat sources if safe to do so. Do not operate electrical switches unless to turn off motorized equipment.
10. Close doors to the affected area.

MAJOR CHEMICAL SPILLS

Major chemical spills are defined as accidental chemical discharges that present an immediate danger to personnel and/or the environment. General spills of greater than four gallons or spills of highly toxic, reactive, highly volatile or corrosive materials over 1 liter should be considered a major spill. Under these circumstances, leave the spill site immediately and send or call for help. Management of these spills is the responsibility of specially trained and equipped personnel. The Safety Director along with the Superintendent will assess the situation and determine if the situation be handled by the local fire department or if an outside contractor should be utilized. General procedures are as follows:

1. Notify and evacuate all persons in the area immediately and call the Safety Director.
2. Remove injured persons, **if safe to do so.** Remove contaminated clothing. Flush skin/eyes with water at least 15 minutes (up to 30 minutes is highly recommended); use soap for intermediate and final cleaning on skin areas. Forcibly hold eyelids open to ensure effective wash under eyelids. Make sure chemicals have not accumulated in shoes. Obtain medical attention for the victim.
3. If the spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
4. Close doors to the affected area. Do not allow re-entry.
5. Assist response personnel by providing requested information, including identification and quantification of the material spilled.

VI. ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENT RESPONSE CHECKLIST

- If safe, without risking exposure to toxic substances, contain the spill or stop the flow from the ruptured tank or pipeline.
- Cease work and cordon off the affected area. Post warning signs.
- Call the Safety Director.
- Assist response personnel by providing requested information, including identification and quantification of the material spilled.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Safety Director – Noe Mejia, Cell Phone 713-907-8614
Poison Control – 1-800-222-1222
Chemtrec – 1-800-424-9300
Note: Chemtrec can provide essential information on how to handle the chemical spill.