

8.11 Hazardous Materials/Spill/Exposure

8.11.1 Asbestos

Some college buildings were built with asbestos ceiling, flooring, insulation, and other materials. Undisturbed, asbestos is not harmful. However, if an asbestos-containing material (ACM) or presumed asbestos containing material (PACM) is disturbed or damaged, asbestos fibers can be released and cause an inhalation hazard.

Fiber Release Episode

- Evacuate the room or area immediately to a safe area away from the building. Confine particles by shutting the door(s).
- Call Campus Safety (Dial 3218 or [206-878-3710 extension 3218](tel:206-878-3710)) who will notify the proper authorities.
- Do not return to the building unless instructed it is safe to do so by Campus Safety personnel.
- Evacuate the room or area immediately to a safe area away from the building. Confine particles by shutting the door(s).
- Return to the evacuated building will be allowed ONLY after the Emergency Response Team gives the “all clear” notification through Security and Safety.

8.11.2 Chemical Spills & Releases

If the substance presents a clear and immediate danger to building occupants and cannot be controlled, the following steps should be taken:

1. Confine the substance by shutting the door(s) or closing the supply valve(s), (i.e. a gas shutoff valve in the event of a gas leak).
2. Call Campus Safety (Dial 3218 or [206-878-3710 extension 3218](tel:206-878-3710)) to notify the proper authorities.
3. Clearly tell the dispatcher you are reporting a chemical spill/release and the following information:
 - name of material (if known)
 - exact location of the spill or release
 - extent of contamination (i.e. water system, air handling system)
 - quantity (if known)
 - appearance & characteristics (i.e. solid, liquid, gas, odor, color)
 - injuries
 - your name, department, and phone number you are calling from
4. If needed, the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team from the South King Fire & Rescue will be alerted, and a chemical cleanup company will be contacted.
5. Evacuate the room and building to the nearest assembly area.
6. Return to the evacuated building will be allowed ONLY after HCC Emergency

Response Team gives the “all clear” notification through HCC Security and Campus Safety.

8.11.3 Chemical Odor

If an employee smells a chemical odor, such as a solvent-type odor or observes a chemical spill and neither poses an immediate safety threat:

- Call Campus Safety (Dial 3218 or 206-878-3710 extension 3218) and notify the nearby faculty or staff.
- Facilities & Operations will then assess the situation and respond with appropriate clean-up materials if the spill or release is within the scope of the College’s response capabilities.
- If the spill or release is beyond the scope of the College’s capabilities, a phone call by Campus Safety or Facilities & Operations to 911 will alert the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team from South King Fire & Rescue for response.
- Campus Safety will evacuate the area and establish a safe perimeter until the area is safe to reoccupy as advised by South King Fire & Rescue Incident Commander.
- Return to the evacuated building will be allowed ONLY after Emergency Response Team gives the “all clear” notification through Campus Safety (Dial 3218 or 206-878-3710 extension 3218).