

# MERCURY

## SPILL RESPONSE



### STEP 1

#### ISOLATE AND VENTILATE

- Close doors or block access to the area.
- Avoid walking through the area.
- Turn off HVAC systems.
- Open windows to ventilate the affected area.



### STEP 2

#### PREPARE TO RESPOND

- Use air monitoring equipment to detect the presence of mercury fumes.
- Remove jewelry, watches and any other clothing with metal.
- Wear gloves, goggles and other appropriate clothing during response.



### STEP 3

#### CLEANUP

- Use only vacuums rated for mercury during response and cleanup (regular vacuums will spread mercury).
- Use sulfur or zinc powder to amalgamate mercury and suppress its vapors.
- Dip a paintbrush in shaving cream, or another thick liquid and dab it over droplets.
- Use index cards, eye droppers or small dustpans to collect droplets.
- Place a flashlight at floor level in an unlit room to reveal small droplets.
- Look for drops in grout lines, corners and recessed areas (mercury is heavier than dust and will hide underneath).



### STEP 4

#### CONTAIN

- Place clothing, shoes and any other items that have come in contact with mercury in marked and sealed bags or containers.



### STEP 5

#### DECONTAMINATE

- Use warm water and anti-dandruff shampoo that contains at least 1 percent selenium sulfide to decontaminate anyone who may have come in contact with mercury.
- Continue ventilating the affected area to the outside for at least 24 hours before turning on HVAC systems.



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