MERCURY SPILLS

POSSIBLE AREAS OF CONCERN

Adverse human health effects can result from acute or chronic exposure to mercury. Mercury that is absorbed can accumulate in the brain and kidney and be excreted slowly from the body. Because mercury can accumulate in the kidneys, the kidneys are particularly sensitive to damage.

CHARACTERIZATION

Materials contaminated with Mercury are considered hazardous waste. Materials considered Hazardous Waste must be turned into the PPOC. (See Hazardous Substances A-52).

HANDLING PROCEDURES

ALWAYS CALL 911 for any Mercury Spill

What **NEVER** to Do After a Mercury Spill:

- Never use a vacuum cleaner to clean up mercury. The vacuum will put mercury into the air and increase exposure.
- Never use a broom to clean up mercury. It will break the mercury into smaller droplets and spread them.
- Never pour mercury down a drain. It may lodge in the plumbing and cause future problems during plumbing repairs. If discharged, it can cause pollution of the septic tank or sewage treatment plant.
- Never walk around if your shoes might be contaminated with mercury. Contaminated clothing can also spread mercury around.

NOTE: ALL MERCURY THERMOMETERS AND OLD THERMOSTAT SWITHCES SHOULD BE TURNED IN TO THE PPOC FOR PROPER DISPOSAL.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Keep contaminated with hazardous waste separate from POL-saturated absorbents. Call **PPOC HazWaste Pick Up,** they will provide guidance for proper disposal.