



FS/NAAF GARRISON SAFETY OFFICE

Outsmart the Darkness: Your Weekly Safety Spotlight



HAZMAT Emergencies

Emergencies, when hazardous materials are involved—whether in storage, transportation or in use, require quick and informed responses to minimize exposure and environmental harm. Proper preparation will prevent chaotic and ineffective response. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Identify and Prevent

Know the HAZMAT in your facility

- Inventory chemicals and label containers. Segregate incompatibles.
- Recognize DOT HAZMAT placards GHS labels
- Keep SDS updated and know accidental release, first aid, and firefighting response procedures

HAZMAT training and handling

- Never mix bleach/ammonia, understand manufacture instructions
- Clean spills according to manufacturer recommendations and SDS guidance. Wear PPE, ventilate and dispose per local guidance
- Store properly in original containers where feasible
- Keep away from heat sources and children

Emergency Response

Notification and Alerts

- Upon accidental release, immediately notify those in the affected area.
- Pull alarm if appropriate to initiate evacuation of area and notify emergency services.
- Secure SDS book and reference response, accidental release and emergency information in order to notify those affected as well as emergency response upon arrival

Response Actions

- If fire/ explosion risk, evacuation a safe distance
- Isolate area as best as possible and take note of wind direction, evacuated upwind, notify downwind as appropriate
- Control access to the affected area
- Decon—Remove contaminated clothing, rinse skin/eyes and contact poison control.

PPE

- Prior to an emergency, inspect to ensure PPE and emergency equipment is on hand. Different HAZMAT will require different PPE and response.
- Be sure to notify emergency responders of HAZMAT and required PPE