



RISK & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Mercury Spills

***QUESTION: How do I clean up mercury from a broken thermometer?
ANSWER: YOU DON'T!!! But We Do...***

In 1990, the Clark County School District established the Hazardous Materials Section of Environmental Services to handle such situations. HazMat is equipped with specialized spill kits designed to amalgamate the mercury into solid particles for easier and safer cleanup, and a dedicated mercury vacuum for larger spills. An Arizona Instruments Jerome 431-X Mercury Vapor Detector with data logging capability is available for air monitoring during and after cleanup. Additional response equipment includes full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including Tyvek outerwear, 1/2 mask and full face respirators with Hg vapor cartridges; nitrile gloves; shoe covers, and goggles.

IN THE EVENT OF A MERCURY SPILL, LEAVE IT ALONE!

- 1) If the spill is a result of a broken "fever" size thermometer or a "laboratory" size thermometer, the surrounding area should be cleared of students. If it is a barometer, with a larger bowl of mercury at the bottom of the column which has broken, **THE ROOM MUST BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY!** In either case, **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CLEAN IT UP YOURSELF.** If the room has been evacuated, **LOCK** the door(s) and tape a Do Not Enter sign to the outside. **DO NOT LET THE CUSTODIANS CLEAN IT UP WITH A BROOM OR MOP!**
- 2) Notify the facility administrator and **CALL RISK & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES at 702-799-0990 IMMEDIATELY.** We will respond as soon as possible.