



Formaldehyde Spill Procedure

Procedure Number

WCDHB-HS-008

Version Nos:

1

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of ensure safe work practises, to protect all West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) staff handling Formaldehyde, and to ensure requirements of the (HSNO) Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 are met.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all WCDHB staff.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Formaldehyde (Formalin) is an identified toxic hazard, and is a known Carcinogenic agent. Formaldehyde is flammable and explosive, but only in higher concentrations, explosive concentrations may build up in improperly ventilates storage areas and fume hoods.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

the **Nurse Manager – Perioperative Services** is required to:

- oversee all aspects of this Procedure

Staff Members are required to:

- ensure they abide by the requirements of this Procedure;

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- WCDHB Hazardous Substance Manual
- PPE and Respirator
- Cleaning equipment, soil or sand (for large spills)
- Hazardous Substances Rubbish Bags

6. Process

- 1.00 All WCDHB staff have a responsibility to be familiar with an identified hazard and known Carcinogenic agent before handling this product, which is to include:
 - Familisation with the resource information available in each unit.
 - Knowledge of the policies and procedures relating to the use of Formalin.
 - Knowledge and skills in the safe handling, care, and spill procedures.
 - Knowledge and skill in the safe use of respirators and PPE to be used with Formalin.
- 1.01 Clear the area, and ventilate to disperse residual vapour.
- 1.02 Mop with plenty of water, diluting it greatly.



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- 1.03 For large spills contain with sand or earth, transfer to a salvage container, mark this **HAZARDOUS MATERIAL**.
- 1.04 Keep area clear until all vapour is gone
- 1.05 Remove PPE leaving the respirator till last.
- 1.06 Remove and discard cartridges, wipe the respirator wearing gloves with soap and water, and dry
- 1.07 Place all items into double hazardous rubbish bags, seal well, label "Contains Formalin."
- 1.08 Notify the outside Orderly to wear appropriate PPE i.e. chemical protective, incinerate the container.
- 1.09 Complete WCDHB Accident/Incident Form.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Once a spill has been detected, staff are to out on appropriate PPE
- ➔ Clear the area, and ventilate to disperse residual vapour.
- ➔ Complete WCDHB Accident/Incident Form.

8. References

Formalin Safety Data Sheet

9. Related Documents

Hazard Register

Formalin Safety Data Sheet

Revision History	Version:	1
	Developed By:	Nurse Manager – Perioperative Services
	Authorised By:	General Manager – Secondary Services
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