PARTICLE PHYSICS DIVISION OPERATING MANUAL
REVIEW AND APPROVAL RECORD

RECOVERY FROM EMERGENCIES

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EMERGENCY RECOVERY

INTRODUCTION

Damage caused by an emergency event such as a fire or a large spill can be limited if the recovery effort begins promptly. This procedure will give general guidance to any PPD individual that may be named Recovery Manager or who might aid the Recovery Manager after the Fermilab Fire Department has determined the scene is under control and recovery can begin.

REFERENCES

Fermilab Emergency Response Plan (FERP)
FESHM Chapter 2040 – Emergency Preparedness
FESHM Chapter 2050 – Building Manager Program
FESHM Chapter 8030 – Spills and Releases
FESHM Chapter 8031 – Oil Pollution Prevention

RESPONSIBILITIES

Emergency Director - The Laboratory Director or his designee (normally an Associate Director) functions as the Emergency Director and assumes command and control upon activation of the Emergency Operations Center.

Incident Commander - The senior ranking Fire Department individual arriving at the scene.

Recovery Manager - Appointed by the Emergency Director and will be given the responsibility and authority to affect appropriate repairs in the stricken area.

DESCRIPTION

The initial call for assistance is generated through the activation of a local sensor (smoke detector, water flow, etc.) or through someone placing a telephone call to the Communications Center at ext. 3131.

The senior Fire Department representative, upon arrival at the incident site, assumes the role of Incident Commander (IC) in all non-security and non-vehicular incidents. Once the Incident Commander terminates the field incident, recovery efforts will commence under the direction of a Recovery Manager.

The Recovery Manager will be appointed by the Emergency Director and will be given the responsibility/authority to manage all appropriate repairs in the stricken area, and complete all subsequent reporting requirements. *Please refer to the Fermilab Emergency Response Plan*

(FERP), chapter 7, for recovery procedures (copies may be obtained from the ESH Section Emergency Coordinator). Appendix H of FERP contains the emergency recovery checklists.

Recovery efforts may take several hours or weeks and will depend on the emergency's nature and extent. Three examples out of many possible emergencies are listed with their appropriate responses in the next section.

Prior to an experiment restarting, proper authorization must be obtained, in writing, from the PPD head and the AD head, as appropriate.

EXAMPLES

Emergency: *Contamination of the environment, such as a chemical or oil spill.*

Response: After the initial response and containment of a hazardous material spill, the Recovery Manager may require the services of a local remediation contractor with additional resources to assist in the completion of the cleanup. The ES&H Section maintains a file that includes the name, address, telephone number, and a contact person for qualified contractors. The list is available here.

Emergency: *Flood*

Response: Reduce humidity by removing free liquids from the space. Check for electrical hazards before entering standing water or energizing electrical equipment. Although in some cases it is acceptable to discharge water through a sump pit to recover from an emergency, hazards in the area may have contaminated the water. The Environmental Protection Officer or Senior Safety Officer, along with guidance from the ES&H Section, will help to determine the best course of action for disposal of free liquid after an emergency. Turn on dehumidifiers & fans in the area and wipe down or mop up any additional water left behind by the flood. It's important to remember that if the water was contaminated by hazards in the area, the items used while cleaning up may also need to be disposed of as hazardous or special waste.

Emergency: *Fire*

Response: While there are many potential hazards after a fire, certain plastics, particularly PVC, used in cable manufacturing give off hydrochloric acid when they burn or are thermally decomposed. This acid will condense on cold areas affected by the smoke and will attack most metals and also structural concrete. Although hydrochloric acid will have to be removed from equipment, the rate of corrosive attack can be reduced to negligible proportions if the relative humidity of the atmosphere in the area affected is reduced below 40%. Measures that reduce the humidity, the spread of hydrochloric acid, and the severity of the incident include:

1) Removing any fire fighting water used to extinguish a fire. Again, it may be appropriate to discharge it out through a sump pit, but that decision should only be made once it is understood whether or not the water has been contaminated by a hazard in the area. Check for electrical hazards before entering standing water or energizing electrical equipment.
2) Turn on dehumidifiers, fans and if possible, the AC.
3) All dry powder from extinguishers or loose soot particles should be removed from all surfaces by dry method.
4) Isolating rooms unaffected by the smoke damage to minimize the spread of acid.
5) Burnt cables must be removed as quickly as possible from the affected area.

Revision History

Author(s)	Description	Revision	Date
A. Sands	Add document control disclaimer and revision history page	7/31/09	7/31/09
A. Sands	Updated document links, additional description of duties	3/25/11	3/25/11