Depending upon your job, you may be exposed to various hazardous materials and wastes such as:

- Chemicals (detergents, compressed gases, cleaning solvents)
- Radioactive material (radioactive isotopes)
- Hazardous drugs (chemotherapy, cytotoxic drugs, vaporized drugs)
- Infectious Materials (sputum, blood & blood products, wound drainage)
- Inhalation of dust, vapors and gases

Procedure to maintain a safe environment:

- Use personal protective equipment as needed.
- Read all chemical container labels.
- Know specific hazards when handling hazardous materials and wastes.
- Read the SDS sheet before handling an unfamiliar substance.

Cleaning Spills

- All blood/body fluid spills should be cleaned immediately by the person discovering the spill or reported to properly trained staff.
- Contain the spill by covering the area with paper towels to prevent spread.
- Obtain personal protective equipment (PPE): Put on gloves, wear a gown if soiling of clothing is possible, use a mask or goggles if spray/splash of fluids in anticipated.
- Wipe up the spill with paper towels and dispose of them in an infectious waste bag. If broken glassware is included in the spill, do not pick up directly by hand. Use mechanical means, such as brush and dustpan, tongs or forceps.
- Spray/Wipe the area with hospital-approved germicidal and tuberculocial solution, allow to soak for two minutes, and then clean up with paper towels. Place the paper towels in the infectious waste bag.
- If further disinfection is required, notify housekeeping.
- Report any spill that results in an exposure to the Employee Health Nurse.