

Adv. Dr. Choi.

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## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (Safety Procedures for Leaks)

If a leak is found you should follow these procedures:

1. **DO NOT** touch and smell the leak, and treat it as hazardous.
2. Alert lab members.
3. Report the leak to the lab director Dr. Choi. ([choi@umd.edu](mailto:choi@umd.edu), 301-405-1907).
4. Using pH indicator strips to identify whether the leak is an **ACID** ( $\text{pH} < 7$ ), a **BASE** ( $\text{pH} > 7$ ) or a **NEUTRAL** liquid ( $\text{pH} = 7$ ), and inform the users of the nature of the leak.

### *If the leak is an ACID or a BASE*

- **DO NOT** breath the vapor or touch the leak.
- For **SMALL** leak
  - Locate the source of the leak.
  - Use spill kit (located by emergency shower) to clean affected area; if it is a strong acid, apply acid neutralizer first and then clean affected area using the spill kit.
  - If the leak comes from a broken container, change the container immediately.
  - Leave the Lab or affected area.
  - Contact the Department of Environment Safety (DES) at 301-405-3960 to pick up the waste.
- For **Large** leak
  - **DO NOT** attempt to clean up the leak.
  - **EVACUATE THE AFFECTED AREA IMMEDIATELY!**
  - Contact DES at 301-405-3960 to report the leak and have them clean it up.
  - Wait for the trained cleanup crew to inform them of the location and extent of the leak.
  - If the leak comes from a broken container, ask DES to change the container.

### *If the leak is NOT an ACID or a BASE*

- Locate the source of the leak, and clean the affected area using the mop and/or paper towels.
- If the leak comes from a broken container, change the container immediately.