


First Responder Guidance: Mercury Spills or Fluorescent Light Bulb Breakage

The information below should be used in the event you receive a call from the general public regarding a spill of liquid (elemental) mercury or breakage of a fluorescent light bulb.

Attached are fact sheets for general clean up of liquid mercury "*Fact Sheet: Mercury Spills*" and clean up guidance for broken fluorescent (or other mercury-containing light bulbs) "*Fact Sheet: Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs*." Please use this information to provide instruction to your caller.

The following questions should help you direct the call -or- provide adequate information to the caller.

Question 1: What is it that has broken?

Guidance: If it is a broken fluorescent, CFL, black light, neon tube, grow bulb, tanning bulb, etc. see attached guidance for CFL breakage or refer the caller to the telephone contacts in **A** on reverse side. If it is liquid mercury - see the mercury spill fact sheet attached.  If the spill is larger than the amount in one household fever thermometer, refer caller to telephone contacts in **B** on reverse side.

Question 2: What is the surface it was broken on?

Guidance: If the spill or breakage occurred on a non-disposable porous item such as wall-to-wall carpeting or upholstery, or if the spill involves a large area, has been spread around, is in cracks and crevices or other difficult to clean places -or- in a situation where the mercury is in direct access to "heat" (i.e. stove, dryer, heater vent, etc.) refer caller to telephone contacts listed below in **A** for mercury or fluorescent light bulbs and **B** for liquid mercury spills.

Question 3: What has the caller already done to clean up the spill or breakage?

Guidance: If the caller has vacuumed, thrown anything into the regular trash or down a drain, tracked the mercury elsewhere, refer the caller to **A** for light bulb breakage or **B** for liquid mercury spills.

Question 4: Are there young children, pregnant women, or pets in the home? Is there anyone with a special health concern?

Guidance: Special precautions should be taken to keep children, pregnant women and pets away from spill areas. If exposure to these populations has occurred or there is some special concern, refer your caller to "Health Issues Related to Spills" contact numbers on the reverse side of this form.

Question 5: Can the room where the spill or breakage occurred be closed off from the rest of the house?

Guidance: If the room has a door, open a window and close the door shutting off all heating and access vents to the room. If the spill is in an open area of the house, isolate the area as much as possible from the remaining areas of the house and ventilate.

Clean-Up Contact Numbers

A Broken Fluorescent Light Bulbs - See "Fact Sheet: Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs" (attached) for general guidance or www.mercvt.org (Includes linear, compact fluorescent light bulbs "CFL" or other mercury-containing bulbs or lamps).

Department of Health (802) 240-5076 (24 hour pager)
Department of Environmental Conservation..... 1-800-974-9559 or (802) 241-3888

B Elemental Mercury Spills - See "Fact Sheet: Mercury Spills" (attached) for general guidance or www.mercvt.org (Broken thermometers, thermostats, etc. where liquid mercury is present).

Department of Health (802) 240-5076 (24 hour pager)

For Larger Spills - See "Fact Sheet: Mercury Spills" (attached).

Department of Environmental Conservation Spill Program 1-800-641-5005 (24 hour hotline)
or during normal business hours call (802) 241-3888

*If you are referring a caller to a telephone number, you should also provide the appropriate web address.
Please instruct the caller to call you back if they are unsuccessful in getting a response.*

Health Issues Related to Spills

B Vermont Department of Health (802) 240-5076 (24 hour pager)
or visit..... www.healthvermont.org/enviro/indoor_air/indoor_guide.aspx

B Northern New England Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

Disposal/Recycling of Mercury-Containing Products

Fluorescent Bulbs 1-800-974-9559 or (802) 241-3888
List of participating hardware stores or retail outlets www.mercvt.org or www.newbulbintown.com
(For disposal of broken bulbs or debris from a clean up - contact your local solid waste district or town.)

All Mercury-Containing Products..... Town or Solid Waste District
For a list of town contacts or solid waste districts call 1-800-974-9559 or (802) 241-3472
or visit..... www.mercvt.org/dispose/hhwwevents.htm

General Mercury Information

Mercury Product Information 1-800-974-9559 or (802) 241-3455 or visit www.mercvt.org
(Does my product contain mercury? Recycling options?)

Health Information Related to Mercury in Fish..... (802) 863-7220 then dial 0
or visit..... www.mercvt.org (and click on the fish) -or- www.healthvermont.gov/enviro/fish_alert/fish_alert.aspx

Information Regarding Proper Use and Energy Efficiency of CFLs

B Efficiency Vermont..... 1-888-821-5990
or visit..... www.encyvermont.com/pages -or- www.newbulbintown.com