

## Emergency Procedures for Hydrofluoric Acid (HF) Exposure

Please post these emergency procedures in work areas where HF is used. Any skin, eye, or tissue contact with HF must receive immediate first aid and medical treatment. Due to the delayed response to HF exposure, even if the injury appears minor and no pain is felt seek medical treatment.

In the event of HF exposure, immediately start first aid treatment to prevent burns and serious injury. **Call 911 and Campus Security at 7599.**

### **Skin Contact:**

1. Immediately proceed to the nearest emergency shower and rinse the affected area thoroughly with water (minimum of 5 minutes).
2. While the victim is being rinsed with water, ensure 911 and Campus Security (7599) have been called for medical assistance.
3. Carefully remove all contaminated clothing while continuing to flush the area with water.
4. Massage calcium gluconate gel into the affected area. Be sure to wear nitrile gloves to prevent possible secondary HF burns. Apply the gel frequently and massage continuously until pain and/or redness disappears or emergency medical assistance arrives.
5. Continue applying calcium gluconate gel to the affected area while transporting to the hospital.

### **Eye Contact:**

1. Immediately proceed to the nearest eyewash station and flush eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Ensure eyelids are open for thorough flushing.
2. While the victim is flushing eyes with water, ensure 911 and Campus Security (7599) have been called for medical assistance.
3. Continue washing the affected area until emergency medical assistance arrives.
4. Do not apply calcium gluconate gel to eyes.

### **Ingestion:**

1. To dilute the acid, drink large quantities of milk, water, or milk of magnesia. Do not induce vomiting.
2. Call 911 and alert Campus Security at 7599 for immediate medical assistance.

### **Inhalation:**

1. Immediately move to an area with fresh air. Call 911 and alert Campus Security at 7599.

### **Note:**

- To ensure medical personal are aware of the hazards and treatment of any HF exposure, bring a copy of the MSDS sheet and the *Safe Handling and Use* document.
- Calcium gluconate gel is available through purchase at Science Stores.