

# CHEM 03: Chemical Emergencies

## Course Overview

This short course (90min) is designed to help staff and staff plan ahead for foreseeable accidents and emergencies involving chemicals. Covering chemical spills, leaks, exposure of individuals and a variety of other common incidents the aim is to prepare staff and students to react appropriately in the event of an accident, assess the risk and identify appropriate actions which they can take to safely resolve the situation.

The course begins with a brief discussion of the types of incidents most likely to occur in a higher education setting with a focus on laboratory and storage areas. Having established this we will then discuss how to react in the first few minutes of discovering an incident (or potentially being involved in one). We will discuss safety, how to carry out a dynamic risk assessment, where to get help first aid tips and how to make the decision whether it is safe to try and tackle the incident or whether specialist assistance will be required. Once we have covered the initial reactions, we will look at some of the more common incident types and how they can be safely tackled discussing what equipment might be required and how to use it effectively. The course will conclude by covering some of the less common incident types; fires, gas releases and the discovery of obsolete chemicals in storage areas.

Throughout the session the concepts will be illustrated relevant examples (and photographs) covering incidents from across the University of Glasgow, how they were tackled at the time and what lessons we can learn from each example.

## Learning Outcomes

- Planning ahead for accidents and emergencies involving hazardous substances
- Recognising most common types of reasonably foreseeable incidents
- Tackle a chemical release or incident safely
- Understanding suitable first aid techniques (including some specialist examples)
- Understanding and using chemical spill kits
- Responding to fires in areas where chemicals are used
- Recognising and safely disposing of obsolete / legacy chemicals
- Accident and incident reporting
- Case studies and examples

## Who Should Attend?

Anyone who works with hazardous chemicals, or has responsibility for safety in areas where chemicals are handled, in particular laboratories, store rooms and workshops. The course is open to academic staff, support and technical staff and postgraduate students. A basic knowledge of the types of hazardous chemicals used in the University will be assumed but with anyone with a scientific / technical background will be able to complete the course.

To book your place, please send an e-mail to [safety@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:safety@glasgow.ac.uk) including your name, school / department and staff number. If the upcoming dates aren't suitable you can ask to be put on the waiting list for future courses.