



Lakeland Long Term Care

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Section:	Policy Name: Code Brown
Reviewed by: January 27, 2022 by Rebecca Soucie	Date of Original Issue: December 1, 2010
Issued by: Steve White	Date of Last Revision: January 7, 2019

1.0 Policy

Code Brown - Inter-facility Hazardous Spill is an emergency response to a situation in which a potentially hazardous substance has been spilled or released within Lakeland Long Term Care (LLTC). The code will be used in any circumstance where the substance, its fumes or by-products pose a hazard to residents, staff or visitors.

All employees are responsible for knowing and following the appropriate departmental procedures for safe storage, handling and disposal of chemicals used in their department as established through the WHMIS program, and knowing the location of the Materials Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the products.

2.0 Definitions: Per Work Place Hazardous Material Information System (WHMIS)

2.1 Class A: Compressed Gas: This class included compressed gas, dissolved gasses and gases liquefied by compression or refrigeration.

2.2 Class B: Flammable and combustible material: This class includes solids, liquids and gases capable of catching fire in the presence of a spark or open flame under normal working conditions.

2.3 Class C: Oxidizing material: These materials increase the risk of fire if they come in contact with flammable or combustible materials

2.4 Class D: Poisonous and infectious material. Division 1: Materials causing immediate and serious toxic effects. These materials can cause death or immediate injury when a person is exposed to small amounts. Examples: sodium cyanide, hydrogen sulphide

2.5 Class D: Poisonous and infectious materials. Division 2: Materials causing other toxic effects. These materials can cause life -threatening and serious long term health problems as well as less severe but immediate reactions in a person who is repeatedly exposed to small amounts.

2.6 Class D: Poisonous and infectious materials. Division 3: Biohazardous infectious material. These materials contain an organism that has been shown to cause disease or to be a probable cause of disease in persons or animals.



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2.7 Class E: Corrosive Material: This class includes caustic and acid materials that can destroy the skin or eat through metals. Examples: sodium hydroxide, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid.

2.8 Class F: Dangerously reactive material: These products may self-react dangerously (for example they may explode) upon standing or when exposed to physical shock or to increased pressure of temperature, or they emit toxic gases when exposed to water.

3.0 Procedure

Note: In the event of a Code Brown ALL being called BOTH LLTC and WPSHC will go on lockdown. Administrator or Nurse Manager (NM) are to keep in contact with WPSHC staff for direction.

A CODE BROWN call is not made, IF the spill is:

- A small volume
- Identifiable
- Poses no serious threat of irritation to skin, eyes or lungs
- Can be cleaned up with water and disinfectant cleaner or with a spill kit
- Does not require protective equipment other than gloves, goggles/face shield.
- Does not pose a threat to the external environment.

If the above conditions are present, proceed with the following:

1. Initiate clean up
2. Report the spill to your immediate supervisor
3. Record the spill and events on an Incident Report
4. Contact WPSHC Environmental Services if assistance is required

A CODE BROWN is called, which may involve the fire department, IF the spill is:

- A large volume
- Identifiable as hazardous
- Suspected to cause serious skin, eye or lung irritation
- Suspected that it may result in a release to the environment (i.e. drain)
- Cannot be cleaned up with water and disinfectant cleaner, or a spill kit
- Requires special clean up procedures or materials not available in the home.
- Requires evacuation of the area



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- Considered a health, fire, or environmental hazard
- Needs a full face self-contained respiratory equipment or Hazmat suite for safe clean up

When a Code Brown is called,

- The Fire Warden (Nurse Manager) will:
 1. Direct staff to evacuate the immediate vicinity if the spill is located at Lakeland
 2. **Call switchboard (#3333)** to Page CODE BROWN, identifying the location and type of spill
 3. Notify the Manager-on-Call during non-business hours (who will contact Administrator or designate).
- Maintenance personnel will respond to the Code during business hours, probably shutting down the ventilation/air circulation to the area if required. Security will contact maintenance staff during non-business hours.
- The Fire department will assess and contain the spill if required. If unable to contain they will secure the area and assist in evacuation if needed.
- The Fire department, WPSHC Director of Support Services, CEO or Administrator may direct evacuation of one or more home areas. Evacuation would be horizontal, away from the spill.
- The Administrator or designate will inform the Ministry of Health, Long Term Care. A Critical Incident (Mandatory Report) will be completed and submitted to the Ministry of Health, Long Term Care as required.